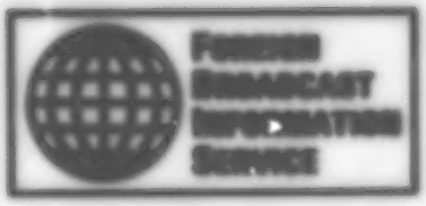

Daily Report

Near East & South Asia

FBIS-NES-82-241
Tuesday
15 December 1982

Daily Report
Near East & South Asia

FBIS-NES-92-241 15 December 1992

CONTENTS

NOTICE TO READERS An * indicates material not disseminated in electronic form.

INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

Arab-Israeli Talks

Israel Presents New Document to Palestinians *[HA'ARETZ 15 Dec]* 1
Al-'Allaf on Peace Talks, Visit With Bush *[Cairo International]* 2
Clarifies Position on Intifadah *[Damascus Radio]* 3
Comments on Possibility of Next Round *[SANA]* 3
Lebanon Rejects Military Committee Proposal *[Beirut Radio]* 4
Al-Majali Meets U.S. Congressman *[Amman Radio]* 4

ARAB AFRICA

Algeria

Five Policemen Killed, One Wounded in Ambush *[Algiers TV]* 5
Ali Kafi, 'Arafat Discuss Palestinian Situation *[Algiers Radio]* 5
Brahimi Discusses National, Bilateral Issues *[London AL-HAYAH 8 Dec]* 5

Egypt

Musa Says Egyptian Force in Hala'ib 'Constant' *[AL-AHRAM PRESS AGENCY]* 6
'Arafat To Meet With Mubarak 'Next Week' *[Cairo Radio]* 6
Syrian Foreign Minister Arrives on 'Brief Visit' 6
Met by Musa *[MENA]* 6
Received by Mubarak *[MENA]* 7
Comments on Egypt-Iran 'Differences' *[MENA]* 7
Departs Cairo *[MENA]* 7
Islamic Group Threatens Embassies, Tourists *[AFP]* 8
More 'Terrorists' Arrested in Security Campaign *[MENA]* 8

Sudan

Further on Situation in Hala'ib Area 8
Egypt Said Sending More Troops *[Omdurman Radio]* 8
Official on Ties With Egypt *[SUNA]* 8
Government Now Supports Somalia Relief Effort *[London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT 13 Dec]* 9

ARABIAN PENINSULA

GCC's Bishara Views Gulf-Iranian Relations *[AL-AHRAM 12 Dec]* 10
IRNA Reports on Interview With Bisharah 11

Yemen

Education Minister Reportedly Resigns *[Paris Radio Monte Carlo]* 11
Al-'Attas' Resignation Denied; No Comment on al-Ja'ifi *[INA]* 12
Presidential Council, Cabinet Consider Riots *[Sanaa Radio]* 12
Parliament Discusses Riots, Sets Up Committee *[Sanaa Radio]* 12
Islamic Group Blames Government for Protests *[AFP]* 13
Ruling, Opposition Forces Trade Accusations *[AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT 11 Dec]* 13

IRAQ

Regime Asks for Reprieve on Frozen Assets *[AFP]* 14
APFC on U.S. 'Military Invasion' of Somalia *[Baghdad Radio]* 14
Saddam's 'Mercenaries' Said Planning Attack *[Voice of Rebellious Iraq]* 14
Kurdish Leader Jalal Talabani Interviewed *[London AL-HAYAN 11 Dec]* 14
Barzani on Kurdish Internal Situation *[London AL-HAYAN 11 Dec]* 16
Council Speaker on Kurdistan Power Outages *[Baghdad Radio]* 17

ISRAEL

Body of Kidnapped Border Policeman Found *[Jerusalem Radio]* 18
Minister Reacts to Murder of Policeman *[Jerusalem Radio]* 18
Political Factions React *[Jerusalem Radio]* 18
Rabin on Kidnapped Policeman, Peace Talks *[Jerusalem TV]* 18
'About 1,000' Arrested in Search for Kidnappers *[Jerusalem Radio]* 20
Rabin Objects to 'Unilateral' Gaza Withdrawal *[DAVAR 14 Dec]* 20
Policeman Stabbed in Prison; Riot Put Down *[Jerusalem Radio]* 20
Lebanese Paper Reports Israeli-PLO Contacts *[HA'ARETZ 15 Dec]* 21

LEBANON

Foreign Minister Comments on Peace Negotiations *[RFL]* 22
Resistance Attack on SLA Reportedly Kills 2 *[Voice of the Oppressed]* 22
Al-Hariri Meets Exiled Former Deputy in Paris *[VOL]* 22

SOUTH ASIA

Afghanistan

Vice President Reportedly Seriously Injured *[Radio Message of Freedom]* 23
Release of Illegally Held Detainees Ordered *[Kabul Radio]* 23
Resolution and Settlement Council To Convene *[Tehran Radio]* 23
Yunes Khales Announces Candidacy for Presidency *[THE PAKISTAN TIMES 13 Dec]* 23

India

Troops Said Killed in Kashmir Clashes *[Islamabad TV]* 23
Further on Ayodhya Developments, Violence, Curfew 23
Situation 'Near Normal' *[Delhi Radio]* 23
States Act Against Banned Organizations *[Delhi Radio]* 24
Over 2,100 Arrested *[Delhi Radio]* 24

Iran

President Submits Budget Bill to Majles *[IRNA]* 25
Rafsanjani Speaks to Chemical Weapons Seminar *[Tehran Radio]* 26
Rafsanjani Stresses Women's Role in Society *[Tehran Radio]* 26
DPK Issues Statement on Antiregime Program *[Voice of Iranian Kurdistan]* 26
Media Question Objectives of Somalia Operation 28
Possible U.S. Aims Viewed *[JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI 7 Dec]* 28
U.S. Economic Problems Blamed *[ABRAR 8 Dec]* 28
EC Said Unfamiliar With Islamic Realities *[IRNA]* 29

Arab-Israeli Talks

Israel Presents New Document to Palestinians

TA1512113192 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 15 Dec 92 pp A1, A8

[Report by Ori Nir and 'Aqiva Elder]

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] The abduction of the border policeman was in the background at yesterday's discussions with the Palestinian delegation to the Washington peace talks, but did not cast a shadow over them. Elyaqim Rubinstein, head of the Israeli delegation to the talks with the Palestinians, opened yesterday's session by saying that Israel arrived at the negotiating table "feeling sad and heavyhearted over what is happening." At the same time, he immediately added that both parties have a mission to carry out—despite the tragic events, and perhaps just because of them.

According to Rubinstein, "the tragic events prove that there is a great need to hold the negotiations. We hope that our interlocutors will understand that if we want to promote the negotiations, we need to invest in and continue the process."

Coming out of the negotiating room, Dr. Haydar 'Abd-al-Shafi, head of the Palestinian delegation, said that "the tragic developments will continue as long as the occupation remains in force. There is no other way. That is why we are committed to the process." According to him, "innocent people will go on suffering because of the occupation."

In the discussions, both parties sought to stress that the violent incidents in the territories only encourage them to hold discussions toward an arrangement.

Elyaqim Rubinstein proposed to 'Abd-al-Shafi holding informal talks on the autonomy arrangement in Israel in order to avoid stalemate in the discussions until the next round of talks, for which no date has yet been set.

Rubinstein raised the issue in a discussion he held over the weekend with his Palestinian counterpart, who has not responded yet to the offer. Political sources in Jerusalem last night criticized Rubinstein's protest of President George Bush's decision to invite Palestinian leader Faysal al-Husayni to join the other delegates who were invited for a talk with him as part of a series of meetings the President has scheduled with the heads of the delegations to the peace talks.

Yesterday in Jerusalem, the Foreign Ministry spokesman refrained from either criticizing the meeting or supporting Rubinstein's attitude.

Senior sources in Jerusalem said that Rubinstein's protest does not correspond with Israel's interest in cultivating moderate Palestinian leaders who support the peace process despite threats and pressure from Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] and other extremist organizations in the territories that oppose the peace process.

Labor ministers and Knesset members have recently been urging Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin to receive al-Husayni for a talk and to announce gestures toward the Palestinians through him.

Israel's delegation in Washington yesterday presented the Palestinian delegation with a thorough and detailed document which includes numerous clarifications regarding Israel's concept of the transitional arrangement in the territories. The document is meant to clarify misunderstandings and to allay Palestinian fears regarding the positions Israel had presented in the discussions of the informal working groups during the last two rounds of talks.

Israeli delegation spokesman Yoni Gal, who briefed reporters on this yesterday, said that the Israeli document is nothing but "a written collection of ideas and remarks that Israel has raised orally."

Nevertheless, judging from Gal's remarks, it appears that the document includes several phrases that are designed to meet the Palestinian positions halfway. For example, Gal said that there is "an inner linkage" between the transitional arrangement stage and the permanent arrangement stage of the peace negotiations with the Palestinians, because both stages are "part of the same process" which is based on UN Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338.

The Palestinians asked that Israel officially express this stand in response to the Palestinians backing down on their ultimatum that Resolution 242 be applied to the transitional arrangement stage.

The Palestinian compromise formula—to which Israel seems to agree—says that it will be agreed that the entire process is based on Resolution 242 and that there is an inner linkage between the transitional arrangement and the permanent arrangement.

Yesterday the delegates discussed the first clause of the draft agenda regarding the definition of the aim of the peace process. The Israeli delegation spokesman said that it seems to him that there is "a reasonable probability" of bridging the gaps between the phrasings both parties have offered for this clause.

The structure of the new 19-page Israeli delegation document matches that of the Israeli agenda proposal. Each proposed item on the agenda is followed by detailed clarifications explaining Israel's stands on the issue.

The document contains—for the first time in writing—a proposal for a three-part format for the management of lands in the territories during the interim stage: autonomous management of Palestinian lands; Israeli management of lands used by the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] and by settlers, and joint management (to be settled through negotiations) of other lands.

As for the judicial system to be established in the territories, the document contains a proposal, which was previously submitted verbally, to set up a tripartite network of courts: Palestinian courts as the authority for civilian and criminal cases in the Palestinian community; military courts as the authority for security issues; and Israeli courts as the authority for the Jewish population of the territories.

The new Israeli document was compiled in the wake of sharp American criticism of Israel's being "insufficiently flexible, creative, and enterprising in its contacts with the Palestinian delegation."

According to the Israel delegation spokesman, the stands detailed in the document are not considered "sacrosanct" but rather negotiable proposals. To explain his point, the spokesman cited the clause in which the Palestinians are told that the number of members and the title of the elected autonomy council are negotiable, if the Palestinians accept the general concept.

In addition, the Israelis are offering the Palestinians several token concessions, such as the proposal that the elected council that will administer the interim arrangements be called "the Palestinian administrative council." This is the first time the term "Palestinian" has been added in writing.

The Israeli team to the talks with the Lebanese delegation was dealt a disappointment. The Lebanese officially rejected Israel's proposal to set up a working group made up of Israeli and Lebanese Army officers to discuss security arrangements along the joint border.

The Lebanese delegation said that if Israel wishes to bring Army officers to the negotiating table, it may do so, but the Lebanese do not wish to pledge to establish an official group of officers. Chief Israeli negotiator Uri Lubrani said that the Lebanese decision is disappointing and that "this is a sad day" for the peace process.

Sources in the team negotiating with Lebanon said that Israel expects the United States to pressure Syria so that Damascus will pressure Lebanon to show greater flexibility at the negotiating table. "We have achieved no progress in the 54 negotiating sessions we have held so far," one of the Israeli delegates said.

In the talks with Syria, chief Israeli delegate Itamar Rabinovich yesterday protested the public remarks of President Hafiz al-Asad, who said in an interview with reporters in Damascus that the talks with Israel are "at a dead end" because Israel has not made any new proposals.

Rabinovich referred to the remarks of "senior Syrian establishment officials" who made what he termed "a veiled threat" that Syria is liable to quit the peace talks and who voiced support for the intifadah.

The session with the Syrian delegation then proceeded to discuss the document of principles the two sides are attempting to draft. The discussion focused on Clause No. 5 of the draft, which links Israeli withdrawal in the Golan Heights with a definition of the nature of peace.

Al-'Allaf on Peace Talks, Visit With Bush

NC1512105192 Cairo Voice of the Arabs in Arabic 0810 GMT 15 Dec 92

[Telephone interview with Muwaffaq al-'Allaf, head of the Syrian delegation to the Arab-Israeli peace talks, in Washington, by Ramadan Hussayn, in Cairo, from the "Dialogue From Afar" program; date not given—recorded]

[Text] [Hussayn] Ambassador Muwaffaq, we welcome you to the Voice of the Arabs. How much has been achieved during the eighth round of Arab-Israeli talks with regard to the Syrian front?

[Al-'Allaf] We are still trying to get Israel to do what it should have done since the beginning of the process, that is, to commit itself clearly and frankly to a full withdrawal from the Arab territories that were occupied in 1967. Regrettably, we are still running into an Israeli attempt to avoid such a clear commitment.

[Hussayn] Ambassador Muwaffaq al-'Allaf, we have heard that the Israelis have presented you with a document containing new proposals. Are there any new proposals? What was in the document?

[Al-'Allaf] There are no new proposals. You know, of course, that the Syrian document presented during the sixth round of talks was regarded as a working document by the two delegations. We are still discussing it. We are having difficulties with regard to paragraph 5, one of the most important paragraphs in the document because it refers to the actual steps that must be made to implement UN Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338 and the land-for-peace principle.

[Hussayn] What is the Israeli position on this fifth paragraph?

[Al-'Allaf] They are still dealing very ambiguously with the issue of total withdrawal, one of the constants of the peace process. They refuse to be forthright about it. Certainly we cannot agree to any other element in the peace settlement unless Israel commits itself to full withdrawal, without prevaricating or using ambiguous terms.

[Hussayn] Ambassador Muwaffaq al-'Allaf, we have noticed a recent statement by Rabin reiterating his country's willingness to withdraw from the Arab, Syrian-occupied [as heard] Golan Heights in return for what he calls contractual peace or normalization. How do you view this statement? Does it contradict the Israeli negotiators' conduct? What do you think of the statement in general?

[Al-'Allaf] Certainly we would like to see the first part of this statement, dealing with Israel's willingness to withdraw fully from occupied Syrian territory, clearly reflected in the negotiations. We would like the head of the Israeli delegation to make a pledge or to speak clearly about this point. Israel's preconditions and the terms

that it is using, such as normalization, are not matters that can be imposed. We are committed to all the requirements of resolutions 242 and 338 and the land-for-peace principle. The Syrian document included all the commitments that the peace process imposes on the Arab parties. Therefore, we do not accept exaggerated preconditions that aim to divert attention from the basic issue. The basic issue is the return of the Arab territories occupied in 1967. UN Security Council Resolution 242 regards this occupation as illegal. TLa is the issue.

[Husayn] Ambassador al-'Allaf, some observers believe that some Arab parties to the negotiations are afraid that Israel will isolate one party at the expense of another. As the Syrian party to the talks, what is your opinion of the speculations raised in this connection and the level of inter-Arab coordination?

[Al-'Allaf] I believe Israel's attempt to isolate one party or another is a fact. It is not this that is important, but the Arab reaction and the Arab parties' willingness to adhere to the agreed-upon constants. These constants are emphasized repeatedly at the coordination meetings of the Arab ministers. There actually is no need to emphasize them, because they are among the constants to which every Arab is committed. Before any other Arab party, Syria does not want any peace that is not comprehensive, just, and lasting. It is not seeking partial or separate solutions. President Hafiz al-Asad and other Syrian officials have asserted this repeatedly. Hence, these Israeli attempts are not important. What is important is that Arab steadfastness should continue. Additionally, Israel must understand that it is not in its own interest to conclude a separate deal with one Arab party to the exclusion of others. What is required is a comprehensive settlement. Peace with one party will not bring regional peace.

[Husayn] Your Excellency, you will meet with U.S. President George Bush before his term expires. What will the peace process be like when a new U.S. Administration, that of Democrat Bill Clinton, takes over?

[Al-'Allaf] The current peace process is based on the initiative of President Bush himself. He proposed it before the process began in March 1991. But our planned visit to him is very important because it will be to the leader of the country that is sponsoring the peace process, although he is about to end his term. The meeting has great significance. It is as if President Bush is sending a message [preceding word in English] to his successor President Clinton expressing the importance he attaches to the peace process. We have not heard President-elect Clinton saying anything that shows he will be less interested in the peace process. We view this visit as a moral boost provided by the chief sponsor of the peace conference. It will encourage the various parties and guarantor that the new U.S. Administration will continue to show the same serious interest that the former administration attempted to show.

[Husayn] Ambassador Muwaffaq al-'Allaf, head of the Syrian delegation to the Arab-Israeli peace talks, at the conclusion of this dialogue the Voice of the Arabs thanks you very much.

[Al-'Allaf] Thank you and the Voice of the Arabs.

Clarifies Position on Intifadah

JN1512090592 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0515 GMT 15 Dec 92

[Excerpt] Muwaffaq al-'Allaf, head of the Syrian Arab delegation to the Middle East peace talks, has said that the Syrian delegation is still waiting for the Israeli side to present acceptable ideas to make progress with regard to the fifth item of the Syrian document related to withdrawal, which has been the focus of discussion since the beginning of the eighth round on 7 December.

Following yesterday's meeting, al-'Allaf said: We spent another day of serious discussion, which is still revolving around the fifth item of the Syrian document related to withdrawal, as well as other elements necessary to peace. No noteworthy progress was made in this regard, and we are still waiting for acceptable ideas that the Israeli side might come up with, he said.

Answering a question on what the head of the Israeli delegation announced upon entering yesterday's meeting to the effect that he will raise issues related to the official and media position which always praises the Palestinian intifadah, al-'Allaf said: This issue was raised and we clearly answered that the intifadah is a legitimate act of national resistance. Our position on the intifadah is clear, and all the Arab parties support the intifadah as an expression of the Palestinian people's desire to liberate themselves.

Answering another question, al-'Allaf said: We do not accept partial withdrawal, nor phased solutions. We have come for a comprehensive peace based on Israel's full withdrawal from the territories it occupied in 1967. [passage omitted]

Comments on Possibility of Next Round

JN1412181292 Damascus SANA in Arabic 1730 GMT 14 Dec 92

[Text] Washington, 14 Dec (SANA)—The Arab delegations resumed their talks with the Israeli side at the beginning of the second and last week of the eighth round of Middle East peace talks, which is due to conclude next Thursday.

Answering a question before the meeting on whether he expects a declaration of principles to be issued at the end of this round, Muwaffaq al-'Allaf, head of the Syrian delegation, said that we have presented a Syrian paper. During the past two rounds and up to now Israel has not been seriously committed to the contents of the Syrian paper. Therefore, everything depends on the behavior of the Israeli side during this week.

Answering a question on whether the date of the next round was raised during the talks, he replied that as long as no progress was made in this round, it is too early to speak about another round.

Lebanon Rejects Military Committee Proposal

NC1512080892 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 0530 GMT 15 Dec 92

[Text] A round of Lebanese-Israeli peace talks concluded in Washington yesterday; like previous sessions, there were no results. The Lebanese delegation rejected Israel's proposal. Ambassador Subayl Shamman, head of the Lebanese delegation, said Lebanon discussed a proposal submitted by the Israeli delegation on 27 November. The Lebanese delegation drew the Israelis' attention to the absence of an important element, the need to give it a specific political framework. As it stands, the Israeli proposal would create a track parallel to the current one if a military working group is formed. He said he compared this proposal, which the Israelis said was amended, with the one they submitted in September and found that the latest proposal is a copy of the previous one with certain cosmetic changes. He said it would be difficult to have military experts in the negotiations until Israel defines the political framework for their participation and Lebanon agrees with it. He reiterated that Lebanon's position is not rejectionist, that the Lebanese course is not one of rejection, and that Lebanon still seeks peace.

Al-Majali Meets U.S. Congressmen

JN1517100892 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 0500 GMT 15 Dec 92

[Text] A session of bilateral negotiations on the Jordanian-Israeli track ended in Washington at dawn today. Meanwhile, sessions of negotiations on the Syrian, Lebanese, and Palestinian tracks were held earlier amid emphases by chief delegates on the need to achieve progress in the peace process.

So far, there are no details about what was discussed during last night's sessions of negotiations on the Jordanian, Palestinian, Syrian, and Lebanese tracks with Israeli delegations, except for emphases by delegation heads and spokespersons on the need to achieve progress in the peace process.

Dr. 'Abd-al-Salam al-Majali, head of the Jordanian delegation, met with Lee Hamilton, head of the U.S. [House of Representatives] Foreign Affairs Committee, yesterday. During the meeting, Hamilton expressed great pleasure with the results of the recent medical checkups which His Majesty King Hussayn underwent. He also praised Jordanian-U.S. relations, calling for the entrenchment of these relations through direct dialogue and contact, not only with the U.S. Administration, but also with the U.S. Congress. He described Jordan's role in the peace process as distinguished, saying that Jordan's stand has proven to positive and firm during the eight rounds. He stressed the importance of the U.S. role as a neutral mediator to achieve a just, lasting, and comprehensive peace in the region. During the meeting, Dr. al-Majali presented a briefing on Jordan's positive role in the peace process and the Arab principles and constants on which the Jordanian stand in the current Washington bilateral negotiations is based. These Arab principles and constants are founded on resolutions of international legitimacy, especially UN Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338.

In his statements last night following the session of negotiations on the Palestinian-Israeli track, Dr. Hayder 'Abd-al-Shafi, head of the Palestinian delegation, said that this week's negotiations are being held during tragic events in the occupied territories and that the only solution is to achieve a just peace. He also emphasized the need to achieve progress in the peace process. Meanwhile, Eliyagim Rubinstein, head of the Israeli delegation, said that the negotiations are aimed at achieving progress because negotiating is the only means to reach peace despite what he described as violence. Palestinian delegation spokeswoman Dr. Hanan 'Ashrawi called on the Israelis to submit implementable proposals.

Muwaffaq al-'Allaf, head of the Syrian delegation, described last night's meeting, which dealt with an Israeli withdrawal from the occupied Golan Heights, as serious. However, he said that no real progress was made. He added: We are waiting to see whether the Israelis will present more acceptable ideas.

Following the Lebanese-Israeli meeting, Subayl Shamman, head of the Lebanese delegation, said that the Israelis have repeated their previous proposal calling for the inclusion of military experts in the meeting to discuss security issues in southern Lebanon. Shamman said: In addition to minor amendments, the Israeli proposal represents a previous project that was rejected by the Lebanese negotiators.

Heads of the Arab delegations will hold a coordination meeting at the Syrian delegation's residence in Washington today to assess the Arab stand in the remaining three days of this round.

Algeria

Five Policemen Killed, One Wounded in Ambush

LD1412212392 Algiers ENTV Television Network in Arabic 1900 GMT 14 Dec 92

[Text] Five policemen fell victim to terrorism and treachery today, and a sixth was seriously wounded, in an ambush set up by an armed terrorist group at a crossroads near the Aperval mosque this morning. The statement of the General Command of National Security indicated that the six policemen were on a normal patrol at 0650.

The policemen were confronted with machine-gun fire from five armed men. According to security sources on the spot, the Nissan car carrying the victims bumped into a barricade of tree stumps and rocks set up by the aggressor group on the road before the car was subjected to the machine-gun fire.

As soon as the aggression took place, the security forces hurried to cordon the quarter off for a number of hours during which sporadic gunfire was heard. The horrible terroristic act, which is added to the sequence of blind terrorism and violence, does not affect in the least the security forces' determination to continue confronting in the most stern and resolute way this phenomenon which is strange to the Algerian society. Consequently, they consider all the citizens responsible for contributing to the huge efforts and major sacrifices exerted by the security forces which are sacrificing themselves in the service of the homeland and the defense of the citizens.

Ali Kafi, 'Arafat Discuss Palestinian Situation

LD1212174692 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1600 GMT 12 Dec 92

[Text] Higher State Council Chairman Ali Kafi received at his office this afternoon Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat in the presence of Foreign Minister Lakhdar Ibrahimi and Yousef Bahs Ali, diplomatic advisor at the Higher State Council. The meeting was also attended by Farouq Qaddumi, Head of the [PLO Political] Department; and the ambassadors of Palestine in Algiers and Tunis.

Following the meeting the Palestinian president made a statement to the press, in which he pointed out that there is an agreement of views between Algeria and Palestine on the Palestinian problem, and on the possibility of the EEC's participation as well as other parties, like Japan and China, in resolving the Palestinian problem.

Ibrahimi Discusses National, Bilateral Issues

PM1111212092 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 8 Dec 92 p 7

[Interview with Algerian Foreign Minister Lakhdar Ibrahimi by Randah Taqiyy-al-Din in Paris "yesterday"]

[Excerpts] [Taqiyy-al-Din] The Algerian authorities have taken stringent security measures, including the imposition of a curfew to control security conditions in the country. What about these measures?

[Ibrahimi] Neither Belaid Abdesselam's government nor Sid Ahmed Ghozali's government concealed anything from the people in Algeria. The existing program is designed to combat terrorism. We have never said that it would come to an end. On the contrary, Belaid Abdesselam has said on more than one occasion that violence would most likely continue, and we said that the security forces' control of security was more than acceptable, and this has not changed. The measures which have been taken are the inevitable, logical step expected to follow the early measures, especially in view of the deadline given to those carrying out the terrorist actions. There is nothing illogical reflecting a sensational qualitative change except in some journalists' minds. What has happened is a natural plan which was planned for. It was planned to take tight measures after 4 December to tackle this regrettable phenomenon. [passage omitted]

[Taqiyy-al-Din] The world economic sector says that Algerian authorities have come up with nothing new at the economic level, and that this applies to all Algerian governments, including Belaid Abdesselam's government.

[Ibrahimi] We do not believe that the objective of our thinking is to offer something new for anyone in the world, whether the government is headed by Ghozali or Belaid Abdesselam. Anything new which we offer will concern the Algerian people, not the world. What is important is the people's opinion. And the people's opinion of what Belaid Abdesselam said about the general orientation is good on the whole. Abdesselam Belaid has said a million times that Algeria' problems will not be solved overnight. On the contrary, since he took office he has been reiterating that we must first stop the deterioration and then gradually extricate ourselves from the crisis we are in. And I cannot go into the details of the program and phases which he specified. People at least feel that something is being done with regard to the actions. [passage omitted]

[Taqiyy-al-Din] With regard to relations with Iran, you have reduced the Iranian mission in Algeria. What is the reason for the tension in your relations? And do you feel these measures have achieved any results?

[Ibrahimi] Iran is a large and important country. We were bound to it by relations of broad dialogue. But recently the Iranians adopted positions, made statements, and embarked on actions which we have on many occasions warned were improper for them to embark on. This is why we embarked on successive steps: First, withdrawing the ambassadors; second, reducing relations to a symbolic level. Actually the present level reflects the status of existing relations. There is no dialogue between us and them, and we hope that this will cause Iranian officials to realize that that method will not achieve a good result for them.

As for whether these measures have achieved any results, I do not know. But it is not an easy question for them. And I do not think that these measures have had a negligible effect on them. Iran wants to play an important role in the region and in the world. And when a country like Algeria, which does not sever its relations easily or create tensions for no reasons, reduces its relations with Iran, the matter arouses questions among people. So it is not in Iran's interests. And I believe that there is a group in Iran which is aware of this. It is said that the Iranians are divided and there are various tendencies. God knows. At any rate, we do not interfere in that, and we regard Iran as a state, we deal with it as a state, and we want to deal with it as a state responsibly and through mutual respect and noninterference in our affairs.

[Taqiyy-al-Din] Do you have any evidence that they are continuing to help people in your country?

[Brahimi] There is much evidence, first and foremost the statements made by their officials. The problem is that they say that these positions emanate from clergymen. And officials claim that they have no control over these statements, despite the important posts they hold. There are other matters which prove that Iran does not respect the laws of the diplomatic game and international relations as they should. We respect the Iranian people, and I am certain that the Iranian state will realize that that policy is futile. And we hope that matters will return to normal gradually.

[Taqiyy-al-Din] It is said that you went to Libya to ask the Libyans to stop supporting the Islamists in Algeria.

[Brahimi] That is your own analysis, and you cannot just analyze as you like. I went to Libya for bilateral matters concerning Libya and Algeria. So please stop these speculations. It was my first visit to Libya since I was appointed foreign minister. They visited us more than once.

[Taqiyy-al-Din] How would you assess Algerian-Libyan relations?

[Brahimi] Libya is an Arab Maghrib Union member, and we are bound to it by the normal relations resulting from this membership.

[Taqiyy-al-Din] What about the postponement of French Foreign Minister Roland Dumas' visit to Algeria? Is it because of failure to resolve some of the outstanding matters between the two countries at the financial level?

[Brahimi] That too is baseless, as no date has been set for Roland Dumas's visit to Algeria. When it is said that it was postponed it means that there had been a date, but there was no date. We agreed with Dumas for him to make a visit to Algeria when Algeria's ambassador to France and France's ambassador to Algeria can prepare for this visit, so tangible results can be achieved. Nothing has changed, because there was no date, and we are in the process of implementing what we agreed upon.

[Taqiyy-al-Din] What is your opinion of the UN forces' entry into Somalia?

[Brahimi] Everyone supports that operation now after some initial hesitation. [passage omitted]

Egypt

Musa Says Egyptian Force in Hala'ib 'Constant'

NC1412202692 Cairo AL-AHRAM PRESS AGENCY in Arabic 1938 GMT 14 Dec 92

[Text] Cairo, 14 Dec (AL-AHRAM PRESS AGENCY)—Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa has said that the Egyptian presence in the area of Hala'ib on Egyptian territory remains constant, with no increase or decrease. Khartoum has propagated rumors on Egyptian movements in Hala'ib.

During a meeting yesterday evening with members of the political club of the National Democratic Party, Musa described Egyptian-Sudanese relations as tense and warned against any attempt to harm Egypt or tamper with its security or stability. He stressed that such attempts will be strongly confronted.

'Arafat To Meet With Mubarak 'Next Week'

NC1412133492 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 1230 GMT 14 Dec 92

[Text] Palestinian ambassador in Cairo Sa'id Kamal has stated that Palestinian president Yasir 'Arafat will visit Cairo next week after the conclusion of the eighth round of peace negotiations in Washington. 'Arafat will meet with President Mubarak to assess the peace march in light of the last round of talks and to discuss ways to give impetus to negotiations before and after the new U.S. President takes office.

Kamal said the visit comes at an important juncture along a difficult road leading to the establishment of lawful Palestinian rights, particularly those involved in the transitional period as well as the final stage, which is basically concerned with the implementation of UN Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338.

Syrian Foreign Minister Arrives on 'Brief Visit'

Met by Musa

NC1412103492 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1020 GMT 14 Dec 92

[Text] Cairo, 14 Dec (MENA)—Syrian Foreign Minister Farouq al- Shar' arrived in Cairo this morning on a brief visit to Egypt. Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa and the Syrian ambassador to Cairo met al-Shar' at the airport.

Received by Mubarak

NC1412105892 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1046 GMT 14 Dec 92

[Text] Cairo, 14 Dec (MENA)—President Husni Mubarak received Syrian Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' at the Presidential Palace this afternoon. Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa attended.

Al-Shar' arrived earlier today on a brief visit to Egypt.

Comments on Egypt-Iran 'Differences'

NC1412134692 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1254 GMT 14 Dec 92

[Text] Cairo, 14 Dec (MENA)—Following his meeting with President Husni Mubarak today, Syrian Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' said he had handed him a message from Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad.

In statements following the two-and-a-half-hour meeting—which was also attended by Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa—al-Shar' said the message comes within the framework of the continuing consultations and exchanges of views between the two presidents. He said the discussion dealt with many Arab and international issues of mutual interest, primarily the peace process and the situation in the Arab region in general and the Gulf area in particular.

Answering a question about the Syrian position on the differences between Egypt and Iran, al-Shar' said this subject was also discussed during the talks with President Mubarak. I felt, he said, that the Egyptian leadership wants to solve any disagreement between the two countries amicably to ensure, among other things, good and balanced relations based on noninterference in the other's internal affairs, mutual respect, and consideration of the other's interests.

He added: Earlier we held talks with Iran, which assured us of the same. We hope contacts will take place to move things toward easing the differences and removing any blemishes in the relations. We think there is interest in this for the countries and for security and stability, particularly in the Gulf area.

Asked who will hold the contacts between Egypt and Iran, he said: We in Syria want to see direct contacts, if possible through diplomats. We hope sincerely that these contacts will produce satisfactory results for our brothers in Egypt so that they can be elevated to a higher level.

Asked about the Damascus Declaration and where it stands now, the Syrian foreign minister said: We have recently heard certain statements reiterating that all the signatories of the Declaration—I refer here to the fraternal states of the Gulf Cooperation Council—want to revive it and give it the vigor and effectiveness necessary to enhance it.

He added: We are in no hurry, but the important thing is to be frank and open so that we can achieve the collective interests of the Arab nation, not just those of the signatories. We hope something good will come out of this, he said.

Assessing the ongoing peace talks, al-Shar' said: The talks in Washington dealt with essential issues and were serious, but they have produced no basic results, simply because Israel still hesitates over spelling out its stand by withdrawing fully from the Golan and the other occupied Arab territories.

Al-Shar' continued: We hope the delegations involved in the bilateral peace talks will achieve results before the end of this round. If not, the peace process must be resumed after 20 January, when President-elect Bill Clinton takes office in the White House.

He added: Syria has put forward a working paper involving a set of basic principles that consider the basic elements and prerequisites for peace as included in UN Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338.

The Syrian foreign minister added: We believe this paper remains valid for an agreement. It emphasizes full withdrawal and the importance of peace and security for all regional states and stresses that the solution must be comprehensive and just for all the parties to the conflict, because Resolution 242 must be implemented in line with the various fronts.

Asked to comment on the resolutions recently adopted by the UN General Assembly on the occupation of the Golan Heights, al-Shar' said: Last week the UN General Assembly adopted several resolutions, principally one about the Golan, providing for full withdrawal from the Golan and stating that Israeli measures are illegal and null and void according to international law and Resolution 497 on the Golan.

Al-Shar' pointed out that certain states' abstention from the vote on that resolution did not mean a rejection of its content. These states abstained because they did not wish Syria to put forward such a draft while the peace process and the bilateral talks are going on in Washington, he said. But, he added, we wanted to reiterate to the entire international community that the peace process does not run counter to a draft resolution on the Golan, because the goal was to remind the world, especially Israel, that it occupies the Golan, has annexed the area unlawfully and illegally, and should go back on that clearly.

Departs Cairo

NC1412151592 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1442 GMT 14 Dec 92

[Text] Cairo, 14 Dec (MENA)—Syrian Foreign Minister Faruq al- Shar' left Cairo this afternoon following a visit of several hours during which he was received by President Mubarak.

Al-Shar' was seen off at the airport by the foreign minister and Syrian Ambassador to Egypt 'Isa Darwish.

Islamic Group Threatens Embassies, Tourists

NC1412155392 Paris AFP in English 1522 GMT 14 Dec 92

[Excerpts] Cairo, Dec 14 (AFP)—A Muslim fundamentalist group Monday threatened to attack foreign embassies and more tourists if the Egyptian government continues its security crackdown.

In a leaflet distributed in the southern city of Asyut, a fundamentalist stronghold, the Islamic Group "warned the security forces and regime in power against violent acts targeting Islamic Group members throughout Egypt, particularly recent arrests" in the Cairo neighborhood of Imbaba.

Officials said Monday that 650 fundamentalists had been jailed since the start of the sweep of Imbabah.

"The Islamic Group will retaliate against violence with violence by hitting at tourism and foreign embassies in Cairo if the security forces do not back down," the statement said.

The Islamic Group has carried out at least two attacks against tourist buses in the past two months in Upper Egypt, one in which British holidaymaker Sharon Hill was shot dead and another in which six German tourists were wounded. [passage omitted]

In a related development, security sources in Asyut said that the arrest Sunday of the leader of the Islamic Group in Qusiyyah "will open the way" for the dismantling of all the fundamentalist cells" in Upper Egypt.

They said police had names of group members and sympathizers as well as details on their meeting places.

Maps pinpointing embassies and touristic sites as potential fundamentalist targets were also found, they said.

Interior Minister 'Abd-Halim Musa told parliament Sunday he intended to continue his struggle against "the terrorists," insisting that current legal procedures be reviewed "to speed up the struggle against terrorism and providing the necessary disincentives."

More 'Terrorists' Arrested in Security Campaign

NC1512072992 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2159 GMT 14 Dec 92

[Text] Al-Jizah, 14 Dec (MENA)—Security authorities arrested 10 terrorists in Imbabah today as part of an intense security campaign by the police to destroy the hotbeds of crime and terrorist dens in the area.

In some dens, security authorities found several incendiary devices that the terrorists prepared for use against police, antiregime leaflets, sharp-edged weapons, and chains.

Terrorist Jabir Ahmad 'Ali, who was arrested in Imbabah on Thursday, gave statements to the security authorities revealing terrorist hideouts, thus helping them to seize some of them.

Major General Ahmad Bakr, assistant minister of interior and director of al-Jizah security, emphasized that these security campaigns will continue until all terrorist and extremist elements in Imbabah, western al-Munib, and other districts of al-Jizah are exterminated.

Sudan

Further on Situation in Hala'ib Area

Egypt Said Sending More Troops

EA1212193292 Omdurman Sudan Broadcasting Service Network in English 1500 GMT 12 Dec 92

[Text] A reliable security source has announced that the Egyptian Armed Forces have sent new military forces to Hala'ib area. He described the situation there as bad, saying that contacts are underway between the officials of the two countries to contain the situation.

The move of the Egyptian side is considered a breach to what had been agreed upon by the Sudanese-Egyptian Joint Committee on Hala'ib, said the source. The Sudanese-Egyptian Joint Committee on Hala'ib held its last meeting in Cairo last month and decided to resume meetings in Khartoum.

Official on Ties With Egypt

EA1312205292 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1530 GMT 13 Dec 92

[Excerpt] Khartoum, 13 Dec (SUNA)—Mr. 'Abd al-Rahman [al-Fadini], deputy chairman of the foreign relations committee of the Transitional National Assembly [TNA], said that Sudan will work to contain the situation in Hala'ib by all possible means. He pointed out that the blood of its sons would not be shed for a few grains of sand, but that it would be shed for the liberation of Jerusalem.

His Excellency said this yesterday while addressing the expanded meeting of Sudanese trade unions. He said that developments in the Hala'ib situation were not the option of the fraternal Egyptian people, nor of the majority of Egyptian officials. He said that Sudan based its relations with fraternal Egypt on a well-established faith, and not on the establishment of [political] alliances. He said that Sudan's relations with its brothers were based on ties of religion, blood, and a common destiny. He expressed his regret that the Egyptian Government should wash its hands of the agreement. Egypt should not exacerbate the situation.

His excellency added that the West wanted to damage Islam and Muslims under the emblem of human rights. He referred to the many good references that Sudan had received from specialized international circles. The United Nations, for example, had commended Sudan's

cooperation with it. It also had received commendations from the International Parliamentary Union, the French minister of health and humanitarian action, and the chairman of the African Affairs Committee in the U.S. Congress after they had visited Sudan and examined human rights there. [passage omitted]

Government Now Supports Somalia Relief Effort

PM1412173192 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 13 Dec 92 pp 1, 4

["Uthman al-Mirghani report: "Sudan Backtracks and Supports Forces in Somalia"]

[Excerpt] London—After initially opposing the UN Security Council's decision to send UN forces to Somalia, and in a move contrary to the position it took during the Gulf crisis, the Sudanese Government has abandoned its rejection of UN military intervention in Somalia and has expressed approval of the U.S. forces' mission in the region.

Confirmation of this new stance came from Sudanese Foreign Minister 'Ali Sahlul, who told the official newspaper AL-INQADH in Khartoum the day before yesterday that the Sudanese Government "has amended its position" opposed to the U.S. military intervention in Somalia under the UN umbrella.

Sahlul said that he conveyed this new position to Herman Cohen, U.S. assistant secretary of state for African affairs, who visited Khartoum last week in the course of a regional tour embracing Egypt, Kenya, and Ethiopia to explain the task of the U.S. forces in Somalia. [passage omitted]

GCC's Bisharah Views Gulf-Iranian Relations

NC1512081792 Cairo AL-AHRAM in Arabic 12 Dec 92 p 9

[Article by Zakariya Nil: "The Abu Dhabi Gulf Summit Face-To-Face With the Most Important Topics of the Hour"]

[Text] The Gulf summit will convene in a few days in Abu Dhabi, the third time such a summit has been held in the United Arab Emirates [UAE]. The leaders of the Gulf states are scheduled to open the 13th session of the Gulf Cooperation Council [GCC] on 21 December under the chairmanship of UAE President Shaykh Zayid Bin-Sultan Al Nuhayyan. The meeting will be held amid Arab and international circumstances fraught with acute interactions, both in the Arab east and Arab Maghreb.

In the view of many observers, the coming Gulf summit is an important turning point in the course of Gulf common action. The issues not on the summit agenda are much more serious than those that are, in view of their regional implications and their impact on the security and territorial integrity of the entire region. But the solid Gulf will, as demonstrated during the liberation of Kuwait, and the cohesiveness among the Gulf leaders to overcome any obstacles are capable of confronting the various challenges surrounding them through, in the words of GCC Secretary General 'Abdallah Ya'qub Bisharah, a single political concept and a unified philosophy. There are clear indications of this, including King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz' interview with the Kuwaiti newspaper AL-SIYASAH, Qatari Amir Shaykh Khalifah Bin-Hamad Al Thani's speech during the inauguration of the Qatari Consultative Council's new session, and Shaykh Zayid's statement on the 21st National Day of the UAE on 2 December.

It was necessary, however, before the Gulf summit meeting and in view of the current circumstances, to explore the views of the GCC secretary general on the various issues related to current events. As we know, he is one of the most prominent Arab thinkers and his views are characterized by maturity and courage. Our exploration, though, was not a traditional one involving questions and answers, but was a dialogue conducted via two letters exchanged on the topics of the hour.

In his letters he said: I agree with you that the situation is difficult, but not impossible to handle; complicated, but not frustrating. You may be right to note that the coming summit must be one of determination and decisiveness, particularly since the summit leaders are known for their wisdom. The secretary general then shed some light on hot issues.

On relations with Iran, Bisharah said: There was a debate during the Abu Dhabi summit preparatory conference. The conferees felt that the Gulf policy toward Iran should be one of dealing with it on the basis of equality, not hegemony; understanding, not confrontation; one of searching for common ground through neighborliness, non-interference, respect for legitimacy, sovereignty, the states' rights to self defense, and developing the nature of relations from coexistence through strategic balance to coexistence through cultural understanding and courtesy. Hegemony, exporting ideology, or encouraging sabotage cannot be accepted, he noted.

Speaking frankly, Bisharah said: We differ greatly with Iran on six points regarding Gulf security. Iran seeks to minimize Gulf-international ties, wants to treat the Gulf as only Iranian-Gulf waters, and differs with us on Arab-Gulf relations, the peace talks, regional security, oil pricing and production, and the understanding of the new world order!

On Egyptian-Gulf relations, the GCC secretary general said: The Gulf states want Egyptian-Iranian relations to improve so there is no negative impact on the region. The Gulf states share with Egypt the need for Iran to comply with basic principles of international relations. Iran does not want an Egyptian role in Gulf security or an Egyptian stand in the region, while Egypt links its security and stability to the security of the region, which can be seen in its participation in the liberation of Kuwait, our common interests, and the unity of our political concepts.

Clarifying the Gulf states' stands, Bisharah said in his letter: The Gulf states believe Iran cannot assume the security role they feel is necessary to preserve their stability, especially since the concept of Gulf security is based on maintaining the current status quo and opposing change by force. This agrees with the international strategy and the Egyptian view. Iran, on the other hand, believes that accepting the status quo on the basis of equality is a political and strategic concession for the Iranian revolution.

'Abdallah Bisharah denied that the Damascus Declaration is faltering. A mechanism was defined for it during the Doha meetings, most important being the security aspect, which was agreed on. This security aspect should be based on the bilateral understanding of the eight countries and in accordance with the special arrangements that have nothing to do with the grouping or its discussions. Such arrangements would serve the objectives of the Damascus Declaration. The difference is clear between bilateral arrangements and group acceptance on the one hand, and considering the eight countries partners in the construction of Gulf security on the other. The Damascus Declaration defined the conditions for Arab relations in five points:

- The right of each country to arrange its own security.

- Recognizing the legitimacy of each country within its borders and its people's right to self-determination.

- The right of each country to its resources.

- The right of having national security through regional understanding.

- Linking Arab and international security, not separating them, and acting within one grouping, which is international legitimacy.

Within this framework, Bisharah says that what is required is not amending the Arab League Charter, but merely showing commitment and strengthening it in accordance with the Damascus Declaration. This declaration is a response to the artificial borders; Bismarck's theory; the distributed Arab wealth; Arab legitimacy, which is set apart from international legitimacy; and an end to arguments regarding the legitimacy of the Gulf states.

I would have liked the GCC secretary general to have been more frank with the Arab people regarding what has happened to the Gulf security project based on setting up the Peninsula Shield Army. The establishment of such an army has been under study and discussion for more than three years. His Majesty Sultan Qabus Bin Sa'id of Oman, the supervisor of this project, recently presented it in its final form. It then underwent a process of delay and reservations. His excellency's response was not clear when he pointed out that the defense ministers had come a long way within the framework of a unified perspective, cohesion, and coordination. Notice the use of the word perspective. When asked his opinion about the apprehension that gripped him for 12 years regarding his leadership of the GCC, he said: Yes. I continue to work to relieve the apprehension regarding security so that the GCC can achieve security, realize the formation of a single Gulf force that links the armed forces in the GCC countries to one system under one leadership, control, and data base, and consider the entire region an indivisible whole.

He added: I hope you will feel assured that the fighting forces in Baghdad or Tehran—which are forces of export and change, contrary to the GCC—are being contained due to the current strategic balance. Neither of them will be able to interfere in Gulf affairs, particularly because Iraq is faltering and Iran misjudged the Abu Musa Island issue. We are trying to send it the message that it cannot realize any objectives through interference.

The Gulf security links with the world and through the Damascus Declaration will provide a security background for many years so that the countries involved can build their own deterrent force to rise above all others. Before Iraq's aggression, the Gulf countries had not thought about setting up a framework for a group deterrent force. They could not have imagined that Iraq would invade Kuwait. They could not have visualized the fragility of Arab political and security links. As for Iran, the danger from it continues to be hegemony, violence, terrorism, and friction, but it does not have the means to invade like Iraq did.

IRNA Reports on Interview With Bisharah

LD1412182092 Tehran IRNA in English 1630 GMT 14 Dec 92

[Text] Abu Dhabi, Dec. 14, IRNA—The Persian Gulf Cooperation Council (P)GCC has called for strengthening of relations with the Islamic Republic of Iran on the basis of mutual understanding and confidence.

In an interview published in the Abu Dhabi daily AL-ITTEHAD today, (P)GCC Secretary-General, 'Abdallah Bisharah referred to the present juncture as the era of "regional understanding" and said the council intends to have relations with Iran in order to work out cooperation in the Persian Gulf waters, fight pollution, expand trade activities, and peacefully resolve all problems in the way of mutual cooperation.

The 13th (P)GCC summit to be held in Abu Dhabi December 21-23, is to discuss collective security, process of economic cooperation and unity among member states, some of whom are involved in territorial disputes which are threatening to split the council formed in the early 1980s.

Bisharah underlined the necessity of showing strong inclination by the PGCC members towards the settlement of disputes among them.

The council groups the six southern Persian Gulf states of Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, United Arab Emirates, Bahrain, Qatar, and Oman.

According to Bisharah, the Abu Dhabi session is expected to study the defence potential of member states and formation of what he called a united and deterrent force.

The members, he said, will make efforts to close ranks and settle mutual differences. He did not say whether Qatar is going to attend the Abu Dhabi summit.

Qatar boycotted last November's meeting of (P)GCC defence ministers in Kuwait, because of its row with Saudi Arabia over the common border. Qatar is also involved in a dispute with Bahrain over some islands.

Yemen

Education Minister Reportedly Resigns

JN1512094092 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 0500 GMT 15 Dec 92

[Text] Among the latest developments in Yemen is the official announcement that Yemeni Education Minister Muhammad 'Abdallah al-Ja'ifi has resigned to express his denunciation of the current Yemeni Government's policy, particularly in the economic field.

Al-'Attas' Resignation Denied; No Comment on al-Ja'ifi

JN1512103092 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0950 GMT 15 Dec 92

[Text] Sanaa, 15 Dec (INA)—An official Yemeni source has categorically denied reports that Yemeni Prime Minister Haydar Abu-Bakr al-'Attas had resigned.

In an exclusive statement to an INA correspondent in Sanaa, Yemeni Information Minister Muhammad Ahmad Jirghum said these rumors were altogether groundless. Commenting on reports that Yemeni Education Minister Muhammad 'Abdallah al-Ja'ifi had resigned, Dr. Jirghum said he knew nothing about it.

It is noteworthy that the Yemeni education minister has made public his wish to quit his post several times this year.

Presidential Council, Cabinet Consider Riots

JN1412205892 Sanaa Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 2000 GMT 14 Dec 92

[Text] At the Presidential Office today, the Presidential Council and the Council of Ministers held a joint meeting under brother Lieutenant General 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, chairman of the Presidential Council. During the meeting, discussions dealt with a number of political developments and the economic and social situation in the homeland in light of the recent regrettable incidents that resulted from some people's engagement in disturbances, acts of violence, sabotage, and looting of public institutions and private shops and property. These acts have harmed the march of democracy and pluralism in our country and gravely harmed the national economy. During the meeting, the conferees reviewed the prime minister's letter to the brother chairman and members of the Presidential Council on the economic situation and the government's proposals to tackle the issues of prices and wages in a manner that contributes to the stability of prices and to improving citizens' living standard.

The joint meeting also dealt with a number of issues and topics related to consolidating the bases of the Yemeni state and its future. It also discussed means to enhance the atmosphere of trust, understanding, and accord in the national arena. The conferees stressed the need to launch concerted national efforts and enhance the one political will to tackle all issues and overcome all problems and challenges facing the march of national building and open wide horizons for all to perform all tasks and meet our people's aspirations for progress and awakening under the banner of unity and democracy.

The joint meeting will continue its sessions to complete the discussion of topics on its agenda.

Parliament Discusses Riots, Sets Up Committee

JN1412192192 Sanaa Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1700 GMT 14 Dec 92

[Text] The Council of Representatives this morning opened its sixth meeting within the first session of its third annual term under Council Speaker brother Dr. Yasin Sa'id Nu'man. At the beginning of the meeting, the council members observed a one-minute silence and read the opening chapter of the Koran in mourning for the victims of the violence and riots that occurred in some governorates of the republic during the past few days. Afterward, brother Speaker Dr. Yasin Sa'id Nu'man delivered a speech on behalf of the council's chairmanship committee to the inaugural meeting of this term in which he specified the task of the Council of Representatives during its second meeting within this term in light of the recent regrettable riots and acts of violence. He indicated that the council, under such circumstances, joins other state institutions in investigating the overall incidents and their causes. He stressed that to express just causes, whatever they are, the homeland must not be tampered with. This is especially since democracy has provided the means of peaceful expression of opinion through words and demonstrations. However, he maintained, violence leads to sedition and jeopardizes the country, as happened during these incidents.

In light of this, the Council of Representatives denounced the violence and its manifestations during these incidents. During its debates, the council noted the need for the government to respond to the council's queries with regard to the causes and results of the incidents and the losses that the country has suffered as a result of these incidents, as well as the way the situation was handled. The council approved a proposal to invite the government tomorrow, Tuesday, to discuss this topic. The council also approved the setting up of a fact-finding committee to investigate these painful incidents in various governorates. The council urged the government, local authorities, and citizens to inform this committee of all facts. The entrusted committee will begin its work as soon as the government submits its statement to the council. The council also approved a proposal to urge all parties, political forces, and mass and union organizations to call for a meeting by all these forces to discuss with national responsibility means to stop the security decline in the country and to safeguard the homeland and democracy in order to hold the elections on their set date of 27 April 1993 and provide the appropriate circumstances for holding free, impartial elections that reflect the people's will to control political life and set up their elected bodies.

For this purpose, the council's chairmanship committee met with the heads of parliamentary blocs, who unanimously approved this initiative and stressed the importance of inviting other parties, political and union organizations, and mass organizations to respond to this initiative. They stressed the need for national accord to prevail under the current, serious circumstances and for

all parties to assume their responsibility toward safeguarding national accord from any harm.

The council will continue its work tomorrow morning.

Islamic Group Blames Government for Protests

NC1412200592 Paris AFP in English 1850 GMT 14 Dec 92

[Text] Manama, Dec 14 (AFP)—Yemen's Islamic movement on Monday blamed the coalition government for violent street protests, saying that political rivalry had led to government paralysis and created a negative climate.

Al-Islah's Secretary General, Abd-al-Wahhab al-Insi, told AFP that the General People's Congress and Yemen Socialist Party (YSP), which have run the country since North and South Yemen united in May 1990, were going through a crisis of "mutual distrust."

Al-Islah, which groups Yemen's northern tribes, "is deploying intense efforts to end this tension between the two ruling parties in order to avoid the worst," he said in a telephone interview from Yemen.

He claimed his movement, led by Shaykh 'Abdallah Husayn al-Ahmar, was "the only one capable of mobilizing the street in an organized fashion." It would do so in a "responsible way," he added.

The National Congress, grouping about 20 opposition movements, also said divisions in the government had "catastrophic repercussions" on economic and other policy.

On Sunday, opposition groups urged the army to back the population against the "tyrants" in power. The groups met with officials to discuss how to resolve Yemen's economic problems after week-long violence that left 11 people dead.

The National Congress urged the army to ignore orders to open fire on demonstrators and denounced the authorities as "corrupt" and "tyrants."

This blistering attack came as National Congress representatives and government officials met here to discuss the possibility of forming a new coalition government to resolve the country's economic problems.

Ruling, Opposition Forces Trade Accusations

PM1412153792 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 11 Dec 92 p 3

[Unattributed report: "Political Forces Exchange Accusations"]

[Excerpts] Sanaa—There is an increasing exchange of overt and covert accusations between the political forces in Yemen. Opposition sources affirm that the two ruling parties are behind the acts of violence, sabotage, and looting, the aim being to take the situation to a point that would enable them to declare a state of emergency and martial law. The ruling establishment blames the situation on the opposition parties. [passage omitted]

The first measure taken by the authorities was to suspend the semiofficial newspaper AL-WAHDAH, published by al-Thawrah establishment after some editions reached the distribution centers in Sanaa.

In a statement to AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT, Muhammad al-Hubayshi, the paper's chief editor and member of the House of Representatives, said that the suspension of the paper coincided with the current events in the country without any apparent justification. The paper, he said, merely acted as a platform for all democratic views in the country and a forum where all forces and parties, whether inside or outside the government, met to voice their opinions. [passage omitted]

He said that a number of parties, partisan parties, and political forces expressed solidarity with AL-WAHDAH and a willingness to publish the articles for which the paper was suspended. The newspaper 22 MAYU, mouthpiece of the General People's Congress, launched a campaign against AL-WAHDAH accusing it of sectarianism and racism, of being royalist and an American agent, and of receiving funds in "dollars" directly from Washington.

In a quick move to contain the situation by the opposition parties represented in the National Congress, the National Congress's Coordination and Follow-Up Committee met in emergency session yesterday evening and set up an operations room to monitor events and developments in Yemen. At the end of the meeting it issued a statement condemning the acts of violence, disturbance, sabotage, and looting in the towns targeting commercial centers and shops. It held the official authorities responsible for this because of their refusal to hold a dialogue with the other political forces to protect the country from collapse.

The statement condemned the government's economic policy, which, it said, was the main cause of the current serious situation in the country. [passage omitted]

Regime Asks for Reprieve on Frozen Assets

NC1312121292 Paris AFP in English 1032 GMT 13 Dec 92

[Text] Baghdad, Dec 13 (AFP)—Iraq called Sunday for countries holding its frozen assets to allow them to be used to buy food.

Trade Minister Muhammad Mahdi Salih said UN Security Council Resolution 687 imposing sanctions on Iraq allows countries implementing the embargo to permit the purchase of food supplies by Iraq. "Switzerland is the only country to release all our assets, or some 120 million dollars," he said. Britain released another 120 million, Canada three million and Italy four million, for a total of 250 million dollars from more than four billion dollars, he said.

The minister said the sanctions were imposed under a U.S. policy aimed at "starving Iraqis, in a bid to turn them into dependents, like the Somalis."

Salih said Iraq's annual food import bill before the Gulf war was three billion dollars, 300 million of which went on baby formula.

Iraq banned 142 foreign luxury items, including beer, tobacco and toys, from the domestic market on Friday, saying it would import essentials only. The ban has sent the price of Iraqi products soaring, but they will fall once domestic production increases, said Salih.

APFC on U.S. 'Military Invasion' of Somalia

JN1412185192 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio Network in Arabic 1500 GMT 14 Dec 92

[Text] The General Secretariat of the Arab Popular Forces Conference [APFC] has condemned the U.S. military invasion of Somalia and the U.S. use of humanitarian aid and human rights as covers to continue the implementation of the U.S. colonialist scheme regarding control of peoples' resources.

In a statement to the IRAQI NEWS AGENCY, APFC Secretary General Sa'd Qasim Hammudi said that the ugly U.S. exploitation of the plight of the famine-stricken people in fraternal Somalia is not based on purely humanitarian grounds. Indeed, this exploitation, he added, confirms that the administration of criminal Bush is persisting with its interference in the domestic affairs of other states and regions under the guise of upholding dazzling and deceptive slogans. This also shows that the UN Security Council is being used as a docile tool for achieving these low purposes, he maintained.

Hammudi urged regional and international organizations to awaken from their slumber, to espouse uniform standards when humanitarian issues are discussed, and not to allow any unbridled international party to act single-handedly in accordance with its own calculations and interests, using the cover of alleged international legitimacy.

Hammudi also urged the Arab nation's masses, parties, associations, and key figures to expose and resist the U.S. invasion of Somalia and to expose its imperialist and inhuman purposes.

Saddam's 'Mercenaries' Said Planning Attack

NC1412143292 (Clandestine) Voice of Rebellious Iraq in Arabic 1330 GMT 14 Dec 92

[Text] Between 0800 and 1800 on Friday 11 December, the defeated regime bombarded the marshland areas of al-Tar, al-Fuhud, and neighboring areas in al-Nasiriyah Governorate. The barbaric shelling against these densely populated areas involved the use of large-caliber artillery, tanks, and various other weapons.

Our informed military sources say there is a possibility of the coward tyrant carrying out a barbaric attack against the area's defenseless inhabitants as part of the regime's arbitrary measures to evict them from their homes by force. Our news sources have monitored the criminal measures in preparation for the treacherous attack reckless Saddam's mercenaries are planning.

Kurdish Leader Jalal Talabani Interviewed

PM1412171392 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 11 Dec 92 p 6

[Interview with Jalal Talabani, leader of the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan, by Kamran Qurrah Daghi in Salah al-Din, north Iraq; date not given]

[Excerpts] [Daghi] Recent statements made by Iraqi Deputy Prime Minister Tariq 'Aziz indicate that Baghdad is willing to hold a new dialogue with the Kurds. Do you believe that there are still foundations for further dialogue between the two sides?

[Talabani] Tariq 'Aziz is brilliant in deception and distorting realities and facts. He is trying to hold us responsible for the negotiations' failure. He says that we rejected the agreement under U.S. and British influence.

The fact is that it was the government which aborted the negotiations. [passage omitted]

[Daghi] Would you agree to negotiate if certain conditions were met?

[Talabani] If Baghdad announces its acceptance of Resolution 688 as a basis for the dialogue under international supervision, I believe that the Kurds could agree to negotiate, provided two other conditions are secured: First, the approval of the Iraqi opposition's leadership represented in the unified Iraqi national congress, of which we are a major part. Second, the coalition states' agreement to protect Iraqi Kurdistan. And I point out that our condition regarding these states' agreement does not mean that we are subservient to them. It actually means that the Kurdish question in Iraq has moved from being a local issued to being an international issue. And it is not in the Kurdish people's interests for their issue to

slump from the loftiness of internationalization to the narrow tunnel of the Iraqi Ba'thist solution.

However, I believe that the Iraqi Government is not serious. If it is, it should have hastened before anything else to lift the economic blockade it imposed on Iraqi Kurdistan over a year ago. I believe that a government which claims that it cares for the homeland should not work to dismember it. This is because economic boycott is the foundation for political boycott, and it should halt its subversive actions against us. We too can detonate bombs in Baghdad, but we will never do that, because Baghdad is our capital and its people are our people and we do not want to harm them.

[Daghi] The question imposing itself is: Do you believe that under the present Iraqi opposition formula a solution to the Kurdish issue can be achieved with Baghdad in isolation from a comprehensive solution to the Iraqi issue?

[Talabani] I believe that no problem in Iraq—be it Kurdish, sectarian, economic, or to do with power—can be solved without democracy. No Iraqi problem can be resolved without democracy. [passage omitted]

[Daghi] Do you believe that it is possible to secure a solution formula for the Kurdish and Iraqi issue in general on an international basis, that is, under UN supervision, as happened in Cambodia, Angola, Namibia, and other states, namely, through free and democratic general elections which all sides, including the ruling Ba'th Party, can contest?

[Talabani] That was the Kurdish side's opinion at the Iraqi opposition's recent conference held in Salah al-Din. But it was rejected by a great majority. The Kurdish side believes that an international solution to the Iraqi issue can be secured along the lines of the Cambodian solution, for example. And I personally believe that Iraq's problem has become an international issue, and the solution to it concerns neighboring states and many world states. Thus all these states are supposed to cooperate to secure a correct, lasting, and acceptable solution.

[Daghi] In your view, is there any hope of Ba'thists in the regime and officers in the Army cooperating with the Kurds against the regime?

[Talabani] I personally prefer a solution without bloodshed. It can be achieved through peaceful transition or through an agreement with Ba'thists within the regime. But if this is not possible, all means and methods must be used to rescue Iraq from dictatorship. And I believe that very many elements in the ruling party ranks and the Iraqi Army reject dictatorship. And without doubt there can be cooperation with these elements to change the regime and hold free elections to determine Iraq's future. On that basis, one should not consider all Ba'thists and Iraqi Army officers criminals and murderers who should be punished. On the contrary, the crime should be limited to the real criminal only.

[Daghi] Let us move to relations between the Kurdish administration and neighboring states, which expressed clear concern over what is happening in Iraqi Kurdistan. This was reflected by the Turkish-Iranian-Syrian meeting held in Ankara last month. Do you make contacts with these states?

[Talabani] Actually the Ankara meeting was held at Iran's wish, according to Foreign Minister Dr. 'Ali Akbar Velayati. And I was very sad when I read his comments in the Iranian press. He said that the reason for the problem is the Iraq Army's nonexistence in north Iraq. Perhaps he has forgotten that the Iraqi Army's presence in Iraqi Kurdistan means also the presence of Mojahedin-e Khalq. But it seems to me that fear of democracy and federalism has caused Dr. Velayati to forget important facts, including that federalism unites and does not divide. And the reality is that the Kurdish people in Iraq are currently enjoying independence but have voluntarily and at their own free will chosen a federal union within the framework of a democratic Iraq.

I was also very sad about [Syrian Foreign Minister] Farouq al-Shar's participation in the Ankara meeting, which many Kurds describe as a "conspiracy" against the Kurdish people and the Iraqi opposition. [passage omitted]

We believe it is important to make contacts with Syria and Iran. We of the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan [PUK] are eager to continue relations with Syria and eliminate the misunderstanding between it and the Kurdish side. Contacts are also made with Iran, to which the PUK has sent one its leaders with a message from me, authorizing him to talk in my name as well. We do not want our relations with the neighbors to be strained.

With regard to Turkey, we have been able to resolve the problems between us quickly and reached an understanding, despite our differences over federalism. There is cooperation between us with regard to resolving the border security problem and the crossing of international humanitarian aid from Turkey to Iraqi Kurdistan. [passage omitted]

[Daghi] New elections for the Kurdish parliament and leadership were supposed to be held six months after the elections held on May. What is the position on this question?

[Talabani] Actually our efforts are focused now on consolidating the state of the law and the regional authority. Meanwhile, we are working to draw up a new election law. When these matters are achieved and when favorable conditions are available—and these include conducting a census, new elections can be held. This could take place some time next year.

Barzani on Kurdish Internal Situation

PM1512112092 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 11 Dec 92 p 6

[Interview with Mas'ud Barzani, leader of the Democratic Party of Kurdistan, by Kamran Qurrah Daghi in Salah al-Din, north Iraq; date not given]

[Excerpts] [Daghi] A few days ago the United States announced its decision to open offices in Irbil and al-Sulaymaniyah to supervise distribution of the humanitarian aid contributed by it under the UN program and in direct coordination with the Kurdish administration. In your view, what is the importance of this step?

[Barzani] We welcomed that decision and considered it positive. It confirms the U.S.' eagerness to provide aid to the afflicted Kurdish people and its interest in making the democratic experiment in Iraqi Kurdistan a success.

[Daghi] It has been noted recently that there has been an escalation in subversive actions against international aid distribution operations in the Kurdish areas generally. Has the Kurdish administration taken any steps to tackle these actions?

[Barzani] Subversive operations, most of which are carried out by the Iraqi regime, represent a declaration of war by other means against the people of Kurdistan. They are an extension of the "al-Anfal" operation designed to annihilate our people. Conditions do not allow the Iraqi Army to make a move to hit Kurdistan, as it used to do in the past. This is why the regime is resorting to subversive actions. Certainly we can reply to the regime with the same methods, but we believe they are terrorist methods, and the Kurdish people repudiate and condemn terrorism and do not practice it, even against those who use terrorism against them.

The Kurdish administration is required to take all necessary preventive measures. It has been able to uncover many subversive networks and has arrested a large number of saboteurs.

[Daghi] Are you satisfied that the Kurdish internal situation is strong and can tackle these difficulties?

[Barzani] Yes, the internal situation is very strong, and the Kurdish people are rallying around their leadership. Our major problem is economic. Many of our problems, including the security problem, are attributable to economic factors. This is because the Kurdistan government is unable to provide sufficient means and resources to expand police and security organs in all the areas under our control.

Apart from that, our internal situation is coherent and strong, and I am confident that we will surmount these problems and difficulties. We hope that internal domestic opinion will understand our difficulties and hasten to help us in tackling them. [passage omitted]

[Daghi] The internal political situation has been witnessing successive developments, especially since the Kurdish elections were held. In your view, what are the positive and negative aspects in these developments?

[Barzani] In the forefront of the positive aspects comes the establishment of the parliament and formation of the government of Iraqi Kurdistan, in addition to starting to establish legitimate institutions and organize economic affairs and services. There are also negative aspects, some of which are perhaps attributable to lack of the necessary expertise. Other are attributable to the laxity of certain organs in carrying out their tasks. However, I can confidently say that the positive aspects outweigh the negative ones.

[Daghi] You have always stressed the elimination of the militias' rule in Iraqi Kurdistan. What stage has been reached in the plan to unify the peshmerga into one force?

[Barzani] The basic aim of our holding the elections was for us all to be governed by the law and to get rid of the militias' rule. And that cannot take place if peshmerga forces remain linked to this or that party. This is why we worked earnestly to unify these forces and put them under the supervision of the Peshmerga Affairs Ministry, that is, the region's government. And praise be to God, we have reached an agreement in this connection: First, a bilateral agreement between the Kurdistan Democratic Party and the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan. Second, an agreement among all the parties allied within the framework of the Kurdistan Front. And we will begin to form a 30,000-strong peshmerga force. The number can be increased according to security conditions and requirements. The force will be formed on the basis of the Iraqi Army's system, because it could be merged with this Army in future if Iraq's problem is solved on the basis of a democratic alternative to the present regime in Baghdad. [passage omitted]

[Daghi] That leads us to talk about what can be termed unification tendencies in the Kurdish movement in the context of a major rapprochement between your party and the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan, among whose ranks there are tendencies calling for their unification. What can your aspiration achieve in this connection?

[Barzani] If we compare the present situation with the situation a year ago, I can happily say that we have made a very long stride toward the Kurdish movement's unity. In our movement's circumstances unity of the ranks remains a key guarantee for safeguarding the achievements we have made and for achieving more. [passage omitted]

[Daghi] After the fighting with the (Turkish) Kurdistan Workers' Party [PKK] and the tension in relations with Turkey, how did you manage to solve the problems, what is the nature of the agreement between you and Ankara, and how would you assess Kurdish-Turkish relations now?

[Barzani] From the outset we have not concealed our regret over the fighting between us and the PKK. But the government of Kurdistan was forced to fight the PKK. The Kurdistan parliament's decision to warn that party was within the framework of self-defense. [passage omitted]

In the final stages of the fighting the Turkish Army intervened without prior agreement with the Kurdish administration. This embarrassed and saddened us a great deal, especially after we heard that the Turkish Army intended to stay in Iraqi Kurdistan and set up a security belt along the lines of the belt in southern Lebanon. We, of course, are eager to establish good relations with Turkey. But it does not mean that we accept that the Turkish Army should stay on our territory or establish a security belt.

When the PKK's leadership realized that it had no option but to submit to the Kurdistan parliament's will, it signed an agreement with us under which all its fighters were moved from the border areas to a specific area in Al-Sulaymaniyah Governorate under the control of the police belonging to the Kurdistan interior ministry.

After that I and brother Jalal Talabani met with Turkish officials and stressed to them that we would not accept that a security belt be set up or that the Turkish forces remain on our territory. Our first meeting resulted in agreeing that there would be no security belt. And the Turkish forces began immediately to withdraw. In the second meeting with the Turks we agreed to take responsibility for security on the Iraqi side of the border and to set up several border observation points. We also agreed that the Kurdish administration be dealt with without any interference in our internal affairs.

[Dughi] And have the Turkish forces withdrawn from Iraqi Kurdistan's territory?

[Barzani] Yes, they have withdrawn completely. [passage omitted]

Council Speaker on Kurdistan Power Outages

JN1412204292 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio Network in Arabic 1900 GMT 14 Dec 92

[Text] Baha'-al-Din Ahmad, speaker of the Legislative Council of the Kurdistan Autonomous Region, has said that the acts of sabotage being carried out by the cliques of agentry and sabotage in the region contravene nationalist principles and cause damage to the people's property. He added that these acts of piracy border on indecency.

In a statement to the IRAQI NEWS AGENCY today, he went on to say: The agent and misled clique's disassembly and theft of important components of power towers and cables which provide the governorates of al-Sulaymaniyah and Irbil with electric power have caused continued power outages for several days in a row, not to mention the intermittent power outages caused in other places.

Baha'-al-Din Ahmad indicated that the acts of sabotage being carried out by the misled cliques have caused power outages in the city of al-Sulaymaniyah for 95 hours during period 29 November-4 December. The power outage on one of these days continued for 15 hours, not to mention the power outage which continued for many long hours over several days in the Governorate of Irbil, he stated.

Baha'-al-Din Ahmad pointed out that these power outages in these two governorates, as well as power outages in other areas, are the inevitable outcome of criminal theft, committed by the misled cliques, of some wire components and tower metals, and of shooting at wires with the aim of sabotage.

The speaker of the Legislative Council of the Kurdistan Autonomous Region added that this state of affairs will remain unchanged as long as the region is outside the control of the central government, and as long it remains under the control of the agent cliques, which have sold themselves to foreigners, thus harming the people.

Baha'-al-Din Ahmad urged the people in the region to monitor the electrical power networks more closely to prevent recurrent outages, protect the people's property, and safeguard the accomplishments of the victorious march led by leader President Saddam Husayn, may God protect him, architect of the autonomous rule.

Body of Kidnapped Border Policeman Found

TA1512121492 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1200 GMT 15 Dec 92

[Text] This afternoon, the body of Border Police Sergeant Major Nissim Toledano was found near Kfar Adumim on the Derekh Alon intersection.

Our correspondent Moti Amir reports that Sgt. Maj. Toledano was murdered several hours after being kidnapped. Toledano was still wearing his uniform and his arms were bound. The body was discovered by a local Bedouin. He told a tracker from Abu-Dis, who notified the Ma'ale Adumim police. Large Army forces rushed to the scene, including Major General Dani Yatom, the commander of the Central Command. Border Police Commander Mishulam 'Amit went to console the victim's family.

Minister Reacts to Murder of Policeman

TA1512130592 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1235 GMT 15 Dec 92

[Text] Construction and Housing Minister Binyamin Ben-Eli'ezer has said that the terrorists once again have proven their murderous nature in attempting to trick the Israeli Government and people into negotiating for a hostage the terrorists had already murdered. The minister toured northern Israel today, and our correspondent Nati Zilberman was there.

[Begin Ben-Eli'ezer recording] First of all, I would like to express my condolences to the Toledano family. I hope that the Israeli people will stand by their side at this difficult time.

As for the act itself, I believe it can be said that Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] has shown its exact true nature. This is simply a gang of killers, and one must know how to deal with killers. This is a contemptible act. We were led on; there was talk about negotiations. These are the most despicable killers possible. We must fight against them and against all other manifestations of terror without quarter, everywhere, in every area, and with full force. At the same time, however, we must make no mistakes. We must pursue the political process with the same force and determination. Anyone who seeks a long-term solution must not abandon for one moment, and especially not at this difficult hour, our commitment to drive the political process forward. [end recording]

Political Factions React

TA1512134492 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1300 GMT 15 Dec 92

[Excerpts] The Meretz Knesset faction has declared that Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] will pay a very heavy price for the murder of the border policeman. To kidnap someone, tie him up, murder him, and then to pretend to be ready to negotiate for the victim's release are the most despicable acts conceivable. Meretz added that Hamas should be quashed with an iron fist, and said that an all out war on that organization would be a battle for all the moderate forces that seek peace.

Knesset Member [MK] Rafa'el Eytan, head of the Tzomet Knesset faction, has demanded that Shaykh Ahmad Yasin be put on trial for other crimes he has committed. Eytan said that he should be prosecuted to the utmost severity of the law and sentenced to death. Eytan said that all arrested Hamas activists should be deported together with their families. He said that the government's conciliatory policies are the main reason for the increase in terror attacks. [passage omitted]

Likud MK Binyamin Netanyahu said that the government needs a full-time defense minister and police minister. He said that the terror attacks had no connection to the political process but merely reflected the fanatical Arab desire to liquidate the Zionist idea. Netanyahu said that the government should recognize the fact that we are at war, and also must take tougher action against political figures who cause ferment in the territories. Netanyahu added that internal security should be augmented by deploying more forces, and by streamlining the licensing regulations of weapons used for self-defense purposes.

The Council of Jewish Settlements in Judaea, Samaria, and the Gaza Strip expressed deep shock at the murder of the border policeman. The council's spokesman told our correspondent Gil Litman that this is the true nature of our partners to the peace process. The government's frenzied rush to sign a peace agreement leads to bloodshed. The Council of Jewish Settlements demanded that all rioters and agitators be immediately deported from Israel.

The Netivot Shalom [Pathways to Peace] movement called on its Palestinian representatives to categorically condemn the despicable murder. The movement called on the Jewish residents of Lod and on Israelis throughout the country to show restraint despite the terrible anguish felt by all of us.

Lod Mayor Maxim Levi called on the residents of his city to show restraint and not listen to the rantings of hotheads. Levi added that he was convinced that the government and the police would do everything necessary to maintain quiet in Lod.

Rabin on Kidnapped Policeman, Peace Talks

TA1412201192 Jerusalem Israel Television Network in Hebrew 1900 GMT 14 Dec 92

[Interview with Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin by political correspondent Gadi Sukenik, in Rabin's Jerusalem office—live]

[Text] [Sukenik] Do you have any new information on the kidnapping and its follow up?

[Rabin] We do not yet have information that can bring the kidnapped man back home. We are doing all we can to get the information so that we can fulfill our duty to return him home alive.

[Sukenik] From that I understand that no connection—either direct or indirect—has so far been reached with the abductors?

[Rabin] There is nothing new beyond what arrived yesterday morning.

[Sukenik] Are you prepared to negotiate with these abductors? Are you prepared, for instance, to free Shaykh Yasin, as they are demanding, in return for the return of Toledano alive and well?

[Rabin] I do not think it would be wise to go into such details now. It is our duty to find out all we can about whether he is alive, and I assume he is alive, and if he can be brought home alive and well.

[Sukenik] It is very possible that in the wake of the wide-ranging searches for the kidnappers they are either finding it difficult, or they are afraid, or they are incapable, of making any contact with the Israeli authorities. Are you prepared to promise anything beyond negotiations that would permit them to show a sign of life from the policeman?

[Rabin] As has been reported, we asked for a sign of life as the first condition for a dialogue with them, and I stress, a dialogue.

[Sukenik] Are you ready to give any other assurance?

[Rabin] I suggest that we do not ask too many questions about that. We are making a concentrated effort by all the security forces to achieve the aim I referred to before.

[Sukenik] Mr. Prime Minister, the abduction of the border policeman perhaps represents the peak of a wave of terror unlike anything we have known in the past, at least in recent times—almost daily shooting and killing of soldiers and car bombs. How can we end this wave? Perhaps not enough has been done? Perhaps the security forces and the Army are not doing enough?

[Rabin] There is no doubt that there has been a rise in a certain type of hostile activity. I am referring first and foremost to a certain increase in shooting incidents. There has been, on the other hand, a decline in disturbances, compared to previous years. What is the reason, especially in recent months, for the rise in shootings? I have no doubt that those who are responsible for these actions are those who want to kill Israelis and also kill the peace, and the chance to achieve peace. The attacks on our soldiers, the Border Police, the abduction of the border policeman yesterday in Lod, were perpetrated by extremist Islamic elements among the Palestinians: Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] and the Islamic Jihad. They have a declared aim: In addition to killing Israelis and Jews, they also want to kill the peace by building up strength and power among the Palestinians in the territories and by expanding support for their position in order to end peace negotiations between the Palestinians and us.

I am sitting on this chair not just to sit on the prime minister's seat, but with the aim of achieving one aim: peace and security. It will not be possible to end the dangers leading to war, to terrorism from without and within, without doing two things simultaneously: entering into peace negotiations, and military and other action to fight terrorism, especially against those who want to kill the peace. I took on this job determined to achieve that aim, and I will achieve it. Neither stones nor firebombs nor shots will deter me from making two moves: Continuing the peace negotiations and determined action—restricted by only one thing, acting within the law—against terrorism.

[Sukenik] The question is whether the war against terrorism is not too weak. Many are asking themselves how long this will go on.

[Rabin] The latest terrorist activity is expressed mainly in shootings, mostly at men in uniform—servicemen and border policemen—who are the targets of Hamas, and the Islamic Jihad to a lesser extent. Other elements, such as Fatah, are participating in terrorism, but the attacks in which IDF [Israel Defense Forces] soldiers were killed in the territories and the abduction were perpetrated by the extremist Islamic elements. They are much tougher to deal with, but we will deal with them. I cannot promise that there will not be any attacks. There was no period in which there were no attacks. In the past, mass disturbances, general violence, characterized the intifadah; today it is more typical terrorist action. There is no doubt that it is painful. We will fight it, and I believe we will succeed.

[Sukenik] I would like to ask a specific question about the Gaza Strip. Yesterday, the government discussed a proposal for a unilateral, gradual, withdrawal from the Gaza Strip after giving adequate warning, in order to avoid the killings and the daily street war—stones and bullets—being conducted there. Why do you reject the idea?

[Rabin] Some of the internal pressure inside the Gaza Strip—a deterioration with regard to disturbances and terrorist actions—derived from the fact that we restricted access to Israel from the Gaza Strip to people over the age of 20. In the past, if I look at the knifings and terrorism inside Israel carried out by Gazans, some 70 percent were implemented by people under the age of 20. Therefore, I preferred to close the Gaza Strip to people up to the age of 20, and if we add to that the unemployed, the pressure is inside the Gaza Strip rather than inside Israel. It was not coincidental, it was the result of a decision to prefer distress inside the Gaza Strip rather than inside Israel. This distress was due to the activity of knifers, from whom we suffered in the first half of the year in a much more pronounced way than we did in the second half when most of the attacks were on security forces inside the territories, and in certain cases,

civilians inside the territories. There have also been incidents along the border areas. The exception was yesterday's abduction.

[Sokolnik] How long will there be killings inside the Gaza Strip?

[Rabin] As far as I know, any unilateral Israeli withdrawal in a terrorist situation will be regarded as yielding to terror and will not put an end to it. On the contrary, it will lead to an increase in terrorism. The policy I believe in is negotiations, on the one hand, and an all-out war against terrorism, on the other, but no withdrawal, not even one centimeter, without any agreement. When we talk about Gaza, Judaea, and Samaria, what is on the agenda in the negotiations is an interim arrangement, autonomy or self government, for the Palestinians for an interim period. At this stage we are not talking about any withdrawal either in Gaza or Judaea and Samaria.

[Sokolnik] Mr. Prime Minister, to conclude, I would like to ask you whether you plan to change your internal security policies in the wake of the recent events and the abduction?

[Rabin] We will check everything and look for any path to fight terrorism. I would like to add that in the past six months the situation within Israel has relatively improved compared to the previous six months. We will fight terrorism inside the territories and emanating from the territories. We must strengthen ourselves and believe in our way because I believe that in the coming year we will reach an agreement, at least with one of the partners in the peace negotiations, and all the terrorist efforts to disrupt our lives, to harm the peace process, will fail. I would like to make an appeal to the public. We have experienced wars, we have experienced terrorism. We are facing a chance to advance toward peace. The more we progress, the more those who oppose it will try to increase terrorism, which is a sign that those who are enemies of peace fear that we will achieve it. I therefore appeal to the public to be strong, to trust the IDF and the security forces, to believe in the chances for peace, and you will see that we achieve it.

'About 1,000' Arrested in Search for Kidnappers

TA1512060092 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 0500 GMT 15 Dec 92

[Excerpts] Security sources say they have no new information as to the whereabouts of kidnapped border policeman Nissim Toledano. About 1,000 Islamic activists have been detained in the territories since the kidnapping, including the unofficial spokesman for Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] in the Gaza Strip, Dr. Mahmud al-Zahhar. Mark Weiss reports:

The security forces are continuing their extensive searches for the abducted border policeman, Nissim Toledano. Security sources say they have no new information or leads as to his whereabouts, although they believe his kidnappers are Palestinians from the territories. The sources estimate that there are between 50 and 80 hardcore Hamas activists, and most of these are known to the security forces.

According to Palestinian sources, hundreds of residents of the territories have been arrested over the last few days, mostly Hamas and Islamic Jihad activists in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip, especially in the south of the Gaza Strip. Gaza journalist Tahir Shuraytah, who works for the REUTER news agency and a number of foreign news organizations, was detained yesterday. Defense Ministry spokesmen said a number of charges of hostile activity are being investigated, but news organizations and human rights groups have demanded his release. [passage omitted]

The territories remain closed today, with large areas of Gaza under curfew.

Rabin Objects to 'Unilateral' Gaza Withdrawal

TA1412104792 Tel Aviv DAVAR in Hebrew 14 Dec 92 p 2

[Report by Hemi Shalev]

[Excerpts] Prime Minister Rabin yesterday rejected the demand to discuss a unilateral withdrawal from Gaza, stating that he is against making moves out of weakness and that events must not be allowed to dictate the government's moves. Rabin was reacting to Health Minister Hayim Ramon's demand, which was supported by Ministers 'Uzi Bar'am, Amnon Rubinstein, and Arye Der'i, to discuss the possibility of a unilateral withdrawal. [passage omitted]

Ministers noted that the prime minister's argument "that we must not appear weak" is the result of the circumstances and can change in the future.

Speaking at a meeting of Likud activists, Knesset Member David Levi said that Gaza is more dangerous than Lebanon, and that if Israel withdraws from Gaza, the latter is liable to become a basis for terrorists without the benefit of a security zone, such as the one in Lebanon. David Levi opposed unilateral withdrawal from Gaza, asserting that it would reflect panic and a loss of control. "A withdrawal under the pressure of terrorism will encourage further attacks and serve as a model for Judaea and Samaria."

Policeman Stabbed in Prison; Riot Put Down

TA1412165292 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1600 GMT 14 Dec 92

[Text] A military policeman was stabbed this afternoon by a security prisoner in the Qezi'ot detention center. He sustained light wounds. A guard shot the attacker, hitting him in the hip. The policeman received first aid on the spot while the attacker was hospitalized. Following the incident, prisoners began to riot and were dispersed with smoke grenades.

Lebanese Paper Reports Israeli-PLO Contacts

TA1512115992 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 15 Dec 92 p A3

[Report by Gay Bekhor and news agencies]

[Excerpt] The Lebanese newspaper AL-KIFAH AL-'ARABI claims that unofficial contacts have been held with utmost secrecy between 'Arafat's aides and senior Israeli officials in several European capitals, mainly London and Paris. The contacts focused on the importance of pursuing the peace negotiations and the dangers inherent in their termination.

Circles following the unofficial moves add that the Palestinian group has been trying to convince Rabin's government that 'Arafat's efforts to reach an arrangement with Israel are sincere but he has surrendered to pressures from within the PLO, which have inhibited his activity, and that any pressure from Israel will hurt even more the PLO leader's attempts to attain a solution. They claim that the unofficial move does not aim to generate new initiatives or proposals, but rather to focus on removing all the obstacles in order to facilitate the negotiating team's task and to eliminate any feelings of resentment the sides may harbor.

The clandestine meetings, which were held even on the margins of the Madrid conference, were pursued until the seventh round.

According to the newspaper, information received about these moves indicates that the following points have been agreed upon:

The Palestinian side is ready to overlook Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338 in exchange for guarantees or a promise that the two resolutions will be discussed at a later stage of negotiations.

Unlike in the past, the Palestinians have adopted a realistic approach and are willing to hold constructive negotiations on the autonomy issue, provided they receive an Israeli promise to develop the autonomy at a later stage.

The right of return is no longer the PLO's first priority, but the Palestinians hope that the issue, which preoccupies the Palestinians in the diaspora, will draw the attention of regional and international elements who can be instrumental in resolving it.

The sources add that now that Israel has lifted the ban on contacts with the PLO and there is a possibility of holding direct contacts with official PLO members, the organization may issue a public declaration saying that it is behind and is a signatory to a clandestine agreement, while Israel would not commit itself to anything more than acknowledging the PLO's signature on the draft of the agreement.

The newspaper further cites Palestinian circles as estimating that the secret move may bear fruit soon. [passage omitted]

Foreign Minister Comments on Peace Negotiations

NC1412141492 [Clandestine] Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1145 GMT 14 Dec 92

[Text] Foreign Minister Faris Buwayz made a statement after his meeting with Chamber of Deputies Speaker Nabih Birri on the course of the peace negotiations. He said Lebanon views the results of these negotiations from various angles. Buwayz affirmed that Lebanon rejected the Israeli proposal which stipulated forming a military committee outside the framework of the Israeli withdrawal in implementation of Resolution 425. Buwayz also spoke about Lebanese-French relations and described them as good and solid.

[Begin Buwayz recording] First, our view of the peace negotiations is not circumstantial or restricted to individual meetings or rounds inasmuch as it is a comprehensive view which involves positive, vital, and dynamic meetings and others which are perhaps important for serious evaluation purposes. Therefore, we view the talks in Washington through a comprehensive perspective and numerous considerations that prompt us to confront the Israeli proposals as much as possible.

Regarding the contents of these talks, as you know, a proposal was made to Lebanon to form a military committee. The Lebanese answer was very clear. If the military committee is expected to discuss the current security situation, then there is the truce committee, which is adequate for this purpose. But if this military committee is expected to discuss the process of Israel's withdrawal in implementation of Resolution 425, then what is required is to declare a commitment to this withdrawal. In that case there will be no objection to this committee addressing the issue of scheduling this withdrawal.

We rejected formation of a committee that is outside the framework of discussions on the withdrawal process.

[Correspondent] [question indistinct]

[Buwayz] Of course. The Israelis are using tricks. The Israeli side is trying to extract recognition of such a committee from Lebanon without having so far recognized the principle of total and unconditional withdrawal. Negotiations currently are taking place. We undoubtedly will continue these negotiations in accordance with the established Lebanese principles.

[Correspondent] Mr. Minister, there have been reports claiming that you succeeded in restoring harmony to French-Lebanese relations following the French stand on the recent elections in Lebanon. How true are these reports?

[Buwayz] I believe that the French view on Lebanese-French relations is linked to the interests of nations and their relations with each other. It goes beyond a number of local and other political considerations. Therefore, I can claim that the relations between Lebanon and France are as they always have been; strong and good. France undoubtedly plays a basic role in the politics of this region and the process of cultural and economic cooperation with Lebanon. The conference of francophone countries expressed this idea in its decision to open a regional bureau for the Middle East area based in Lebanon. I believe this bureau will be inaugurated before March 1993. [end recording]

Resistance Attack on SLA Reportedly Kills 2

NC1512091092 Ba'labakk Voice of the Oppressed in Arabic 0630 GMT 15 Dec 92

[Text] The slaps in the face of the enemy continue in Lebanon, just as they do in Palestine. The Zionists' agents have been subjected to a heroic operation carried out by the Islamic Resistance. The resistance detonated an explosive device as a Lahdist [South Lebanese Army, SLA] infantry patrol was passing on the road to the Jazzin-Bustayya post. The explosion killed two agents and injured a third.

Al-Hariri Meets Exiled Former Deputy in Paris

NC1312150992 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1215 GMT 13 Dec 92

[Excerpts] Prime Minister Rafiq al-Hariri's visit to France will be concluded this evening with an expected meeting with French Foreign Minister Roland Dumas. [passage omitted]

Health Minister Marwan Hamadah, who is accompanying al-Hariri on his visit, has disclosed that [exiled former deputy] Raymond Iddah has visited the prime minister. Hamadah was speaking to our radio in a telephone conversation we held with him in Paris. [passage omitted]

Afghanistan

Vice President Reportedly Seriously Injured

LD1512121492 (Clandestine) Radio Message of Freedom in Pushto to Afghanistan 0830 GMT 15 Dec 92

[Text] The Radio Message of Freedom correspondent reports from Kabul city that Mowlawi Hamza, vice president of the coalition administration, has seriously been injured as a result of a rocket explosion during the recent fighting which flared up in Kabul; and even the rumor of his death has been spread. Our correspondent, quoting a reliable source, says that the Presidential Palace was under heavy weapon attack from the Taymani and Bagh-e Bala directions during the fighting days. It is not yet clear, however, which faction attack caused Mowlawi Hamza's injury. The report adds that there is no report on the medical health of Mowlawi Mir Hamza since the occurance of this incident. The rumor of his death, however, has been spread in Kabul.

The report adds that Division 80 of Sayd Kayan was deployed in Taymani Wat and forces of Hezb-e Wahdat were stationed in Bagh-e Bala regions during the fighting days whose forces were attacking the Presidential Palace and other government installations.

Release of Illegally Held Detainees Ordered

LD1412185192 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Pushto 1530 GMT 14 Dec 92

["Announcement by Kabul City's Peace and Cleansing Committee"]

[Text] In line with the resolution of the leadership of Kabul City's Peace and Cleansing Committee, all military groups which are taking advantage of the negative situation to start detaining people are required to release as soon as possible and unconditionally all those whom they have detained under various pretexts. Following this announcement, they must bring all detainees to Dehmazang Square and release them in the presence of the committee. Once again it is emphasized that from now on no group has the right to capture or detain anyone. Violators will be severely punished.

Resolutive and Settlement Council To Convene

LD1412183592 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1630 GMT 14 Dec 92

[Text] In Afghanistan, more than 400 members of the Resolution and Settlement Council [Shura-ye Hal wa 'Aqd] have thus far arrived in Kabul. According to a report by a Voice and Vision correspondent from Kabul, a plane carrying some members from Herat Province arrived in Kabul this afternoon. Informed sources in Afghanistan announced: The Solution and Settlement Council will convene within the next three days and will assume responsibility for selecting the future Afghan president for the next 18 months.

Yunus Khales Announces Candidacy for Presidency

BK1312114392 Islamabad THE PAKISTAN TIMES in English 13 Dec 92 p 12

[Text] Peshawar, Dec. 12—Chief of his own faction of Hezb-e Eslami Mowlawi Yunes Khales today declared that he would contest the presidential election being held in Afghanistan in the mid of current month.

In a statement from Jalalabad he said that extension period of the present regime led by Prof. Rabbani is going to expire on Dec. 15 and according to the decision taken by the leadership council on Oct. 31 last. No further extension would be granted to the present government following the expiry of extension period.

He said keeping in view the present day situation in Afghanistan, which were leading toward total destruction of the country therefore, he announced to contest the presidential election to be conducted in shura Ahle Hal-o-Aqd's [name as published] meeting.

Pir Seyyed Ahmad Gaylani, chief of National Islamic Front of Afghanistan (NIFA), is also candidate for the presidentship.

India

Troops Said Killed in Kashmir Clashes

BK1412143092 Islamabad PTV Television Network in English 1400 GMT 14 Dec 92

[Text] In occupied Kashmir, 10 Indian troops were killed and many injured in clashes with mujahidin. The clashes took place during house-to-house search and large-scale arrooning by the Indian troops in Srinagar and Baramula. Mujahidin suffered four casualties. According to KMS [KASHMIR MEDIA SERVICE] the Indian troops set ablaze several houses in (Lolad). Two houses belonged to Kashmiri pandits [Hindu scholars]. The situation in Jammu region is reported to be tense with Indian troops continuing their clampdown on the Muslim majority areas of Rajouri, Punch, Mendhar and Kishtwar.

Further on Ayodhya Developments, Violence, Curfew

Situation 'Near Normal'

BK1412162092 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1530 GMT 14 Dec 92

[Text] Reports from various parts of the country indicate that the overall law and order situation is near normal. The curfew- bound areas in most states remained peaceful and incident-free during the last 24 hours. The duration of curfew relaxation has been increased in several areas following an improvement in the situation.

In Assam, the situation in the trouble-hit areas is reported to be peaceful today. According to official sources at Dispur,

no untoward incident was reported from any part of the state today. The deputy chairman of the Planning Commission, Mr. Pranabkumar Mukherjee, today visited the affected areas of Hojai subdivision of Nowgong District. He met the inmates of the nine relief camps of the area and assured their speedy rehabilitation. The deputy minister for labor, Mr. Pavan Singh Ghatewal, also toured the affected areas of Hojai subdivision and appealed to the parties to maintain peace and amity. The chief minister, Mr. Hiteshwar Saikia, and the union minister of state for steel, Mr. Santosh Mohan Dev, visited the affected areas of Dhubri District.

In Uttar Pradesh, the situation in the curfew-bound areas has almost returned to normal. The curfew was relaxed for two to three hours in a phased manner in all the 33 curfew-bound cities and towns except Kanpur. The adviser to the state governor told newsmen that the relaxation period passed off peacefully and people in large numbers came out to purchase essential commodities. The situation in Kanpur also has shown significant improvement. Relief work has been undertaken in the affected areas on a war-footing. The health minister, Mr. M.L. Fotedar, today visited the riot-hit areas of Varanasi and reviewed the situation there. In an appeal, he has called upon the political leaders to cut across party lines to work for the unity and integrity of the nation.

In West Bengal, the overall situation continues to be normal. No untoward incident has been reported during the last three days. According to official sources, the overall situation will be reviewed tomorrow for further necessary action. The union information and broadcasting minister, Mr. Ajit Kumar Panja, visited some of the relief camps in the affected areas of Calcutta. He made arrangements for relief materials for the people who have taken shelter in these camps.

In Bihar, with significant improvement in the overall situation in the state, three to 15 hours curfew relaxation was given in 13 curfew-bound areas today. No major incident has been reported from any part of the state in the last three days. Meanwhile, the chief minister, Mr. Lalu Prasad Yadav, has announced that all the places of worship damaged during the recent disturbances in different parts of the state will be repaired by the government. He said a list of such places of worship has been prepared.

In Karnataka, barring one incident in Mysore city, there is no report of any untoward incident from any other place. However, the night curfew in some sensitive places has been extended as a precautionary measure.

In Gujarat, the situation is fast returning to normal and barring one incident of violence in Palanpur, no untoward incident was reported from any part of the state today.

In Jammu and Kashmir, the day curfew was lifted in the border town of Punch today. Night curfew, however, will continue from 1800 this evening. An official spokesman said the curfew was relaxed for eight hours from 0900 this morning in the old Rajauri town for the first time in the last seven days. No untoward incident has been reported from any of the three curfew-bound towns in Rajauri and Punch Districts.

The situation in the curfew-bound areas of Delhi is fast returning to normal. The day passed off peacefully in these areas today. According to the Delhi Police Commissioner, the daytime curfew will be lifted from the walled city areas tomorrow and in East Delhi the curfew relaxation is to be given for a longer period.

States Act Against Banned Organizations

BK1412162892 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1530 GMT 14 Dec 92

[Text] More states have initiated action under the Unlawful Activities Prevention Act against the banned organizations in their states. In Madhya Pradesh, so far over 43 offices of such organizations have been sealed and the bank accounts of these organizations in 20 districts have been frozen and more than a hundred activists rounded up.

In Haryana, 337 persons have been arrested in connection with the violent incidents and causing damage to religious places. The accounts of the banned organizations have been seized and their offices sealed.

In Karnataka, 15 activists of these organizations have been arrested.

In the capital, notice has been served on the four banned organizations and some of their activists arrested. The accounts of these organizations have been frozen and places of their activities declared unlawful.

The offices of the three banned organizations have been sealed in Andhra Pradesh and about 87 persons arrested.

In Bihar, regional offices of four banned organizations, including RSS [Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh] and VHP [Vishwa Hindu Parishad], were sealed today in Ranchi, Lohardaga, Jamshedpur, and Hazaribagh. More than 35 leaders of these organizations have been arrested so far from these places.

Bombay police has initiated action against the banned organizations. Twenty-six persons have been arrested under the Unlawful Activities Prevention Act.

Over 2,100 Arrested

BK1512034892 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0245 GMT 15 Dec 92

[Text] The crackdown on the banned organizations continues all over the country with several state governments initiating inquiries into violent incidents. Over 2,100 activists of the five banned organizations have been arrested so far all over the country.

In Maharashtra, the head office of the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh [RSS] was sealed in Nagpur. The

order banning it under the Unlawful Activities Prevention Act was served on its chief Balasaheb Deoras last night. The RSS chief said that he is under house arrest, while the Nagpur police commissioner has denied this.

In Uttar Pradesh, about 1,000 activists have been taken into custody. In West Bengal, 120 offices belonging to VHP [Vishwa Hindu Parishad], Bajrang Dal, Jamaat-i-Islami-i-Hind, and the Islamic Sevak Sangh have been sealed. In Kerala, the offices of these organizations in more than 130 places have been sealed and about 250 people have been arrested.

Gujarat police have sealed the state headquarters of the VHP, and the RSS in Ahmedabad. In Madhya Pradesh, 46 offices of the banned organizations were sealed throughout the state, while over 190 activists have been arrested. Bank accounts of these organizations in 28 districts were also frozen in the statewide operation under the Unlawful Activities Prevention Act.

Meanwhile, the Maharashtra government has ordered a thorough inquiry into the recent incidents of violence in the state. The chief minister, Mr. Sudhakar Rao Naik, said long-term measures, including creation of special machinery to handle such situations, are also under active consideration. The Assam government has decided to hold a judicial inquiry into the violent incidents in Nowgong district.

A team of Central Bureau of Investigation [CBI] is leaving for Faizabad today to probe the Ayodhya incidents. A spokesman of CBI said in New Delhi that the team consisting of 15 officials will look into the demolition of the Babri Masjid [mosque] structure and the conspiracy behind it. They will also investigate various offenses connected with the Ayodhya incidents.

The Gujarat chief minister, Mr. Chimanbhai Patel, has said that all those who incited communal disturbances, irrespective of their political links, will be punished. Talking to newsmen in Surat yesterday, he appealed to the people from all walks of life to help restore normalcy in Surat city which witnessed large-scale violence. The West Bengal Pradesh [state] Congress-I [Committee, PCC-I] has asked the state government to inquire into the causes and extent of recent violence in Calcutta. The president of the PCC-I, Mr. Somen Mitra, said that a committee of members of the assembly belonging to various political parties should be given this task. He assured the party's cooperation with the state government in maintaining peace and harmony.

Iran

President Submits Budget Bill to Majles

LD1512113592 Tehran IRNA in English 0820 GMT 15 Dec 92

[Text] Tehran, Dec. 15, IRNA—The budget bill for the next Iranian calendar year, 1372, (starting March 21, 1993) amounting to rials 54,179.7 billion was presented to the Majles by President Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani here Tuesday morning.

The president called on the deputies to study precisely and with great sensitiveness the figures in the bill without any reservation.

On the specifications of the 1372 budget bill, Rafsanjani explained that according to the targets set in the first five-year development plan, the figure related to borrowings from the banking system has reached zero for the first time after 25 years.

He added that in pursuant of the government's decision to adopt a single parity rate for foreign currencies, the foreign currency allocation system will not be applied any more and the figures mentioned in the next year's budget bill has been calculated on the basis of an exchange rate to be determined in relation to supply and demand.

He said efforts have been made to make the bill more "transparent" explaining that certain government expenditures which used to be financed through mechanisms out of the budget system have now been reflected within the framework of the general budget.

Of the next year's budget, a total of rials 25,425.8 billion of the budget credits has been allocated to the government's general budget, 104 percent higher than last year, he told the deputies. Rials 1,712.8 billion from the general budget will be from special incomes (special incomes include those received by certain executive organs according to special authorizations).

According to Rafsanjani, the budget of state companies, government-affiliate profit-making institutions and banks has been estimated at rials 34,731.9 billion, up by 93 percent compared to the last year. Of the figure, rials 30,360 billion is allocated to the state companies, rials 933.5 billion to profit-making institutions and rials 3,438.4 to banks.

The incomes in 1372 have been estimated at rials 23,538.5 billion, up by 120.6 percent compared to the figure envisaged for 1371, he said and continued that 23 percent of the above figure will come from taxes, 67.2 percent from oil and 9.8 percent from other miscellaneous sources.

With adoption of a single parity rate system for foreign currencies, the real share of income items in the overall state incomes has been defined and appropriate grounds prepared for future planning in this regard, the president underlined.

The next year's budget bill has envisaged the tax incomes for 1372 at rials 5,419.7 billion, 90 percent higher than the figure approved for the current year. The ratio of the tax incomes to the gross domestic product (gdp) in 1372 will be 8.2 percent, he said.

Rafsanjani Speaks to Chemical Weapons Seminar

LD1412221792 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 2030 GMT 14 Dec 92

[Text] The seminar on the effects of chemical and biological weapons on the environment, mankind, and society opened in Tehran on Monday [14 December] with a message by President Hashemi-Rafsanjani. It was attended by 700 scientific and political figures and a number of civil officials.

In his message Hashemi-Rafsanjani referred to the open misuse of man's scientific achievements and the deadly race is in progress in the form of the mass production of mass-destruction weapons in the world. He described the Islamic Republic of Iran as one of the victims of chemical weapons and emphasized our country's firm and fundamental position on the need to ban the production and propagation of such weapons and the regular and complete destruction of chemical weapons stores.

The message reads: The Islamic Republic of Iran gives serious consideration to reappraising the effects of these weapons on the environment and the need to take measures to remedy it and give humanitarian aid to victims of chemical weapons. It should be noted that the propagation and storage of chemical weapons, in addition to monopolizing the production and sale of such weapons by world powers are sources of concern for man today.

Hashemi-Rafsanjani said that the extensive use of chemical equipment by the Iraqi regime on soldiers and civilians and the participation of at least 207 Western industrial and commercial firms, from 21 advanced countries, in the expansion of technical know-how, the export of banned materials, and the manufacture of chemical weapons in Iraq were proof that various governments had deliberately overlooked their international responsibilities and illustrated the illogical and inhumane profiteering by those companies. He pointed out: The consequences of that action now plagues the international community and is an eternal curse on its main perpetrators.

Rafsanjani Stresses Women's Role in Society

LD1412170792 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1030 GMT 14 Dec 92

[Text] On the eve of the auspicious birth anniversary of Her Holiness Fatema Zahra—peace be upon her—a group of women were received by the president today. In a speech, the president elaborated on the role of women in the Islamic society of Iran.

Having congratulated Iranian ladies on the birth anniversary of Her Holiness Fatema Zahra—peace be upon her—President Hashemi-Rafsanjani said: Islam's eminent ladies constitute the best model for all women throughout the world. One of the government's important aims is to elevate women to positions worthy of them.

Stressing the need for women to pay serious attention to their families and the upbringing of their children, the president pointed out: The government and the Majles have attached great importance to women's role in the family, and by endorsing legislation for working women they have provided them with the opportunity to reduce their working hours in favor of their family, if they wish to do so.

Underlining society's need for a female workforce, Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani said: Ladies must have an active presence on all social arenas by doing more work in offices, universities, and schools, and thus accelerate the country's reconstruction.

The president remarked: Even housewives who have the potential and opportunity to participate in production work could create light and small products at home, thus easing society's needs while filling their leisure hours. The culture of this kind of work, which is customary in rural homes, should also be promoted in urban areas.

Reiterating the need for a healthy working atmosphere in the country for women, Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani said: One of the significant distinctions of the Islamic Republic of Iran's system is the creation of a suitable moral climate in the work places of men and women, so as to draw out the maximum benefit from their workforce. If a healthy climate is not provided, the family structure will suffer, moral decadence will develop in society, and ultimately the ladies' work will be wasted.

The president added: Observance of Islamic virtue and laws at work is one of the chief differences between the Islamic society of Iran and western societies.

Pointing to the weak family structures and moral decadence in the West, the president remarked: Westerners have inflicted the greatest blow to the family structure by failing to observe ethical conduct at work; and they wrongly assume such behavior to be a kind of freedom.

The gathering was attended by over 100 Iranian working women and Mrs Habibi, presidential adviser on women's affairs. The president awarded prizes to five model female workers. One of the women donated her prize to Muslims in Bosnia.

DPK Issues Statement on Autonomy Program

NC1412121092 [Clandestine] Voice of Iranian Kordestan in Persian 1730 GMT 12 Dec 92

[Statement issued by the Democratic Party of Kordestan, DPK, in Iran following the fourth plenum of its Central Committee on 10 December; place not given—read by announcer]

[Text] Esteemed compatriots, combatant people of Kordestan, dear comrades: It is with great pleasure that the politburo of the DPK in Iran conveys that the fourth session of the Central Committee of the party, elected at the ninth Qaemia congress, convened on Saturday 5

December. After five days of deliberations, the session concluded at 2100 on Wednesday 9 December.

The Central Committee plenum was inaugurated as usual with a minute's silence for the martyrs. Combatant comrade DPK Secretary General Mustafa Hejri opened the plenary session with a discourse on the political situation in Iran and Kordestan, conditions for our struggle, and details of the martyrdom of our noble leader comrade Dr. Sadeq Sharafkandi.

The participants stated their opinions and after two days of discussion and debate concluded the following:

1. Again the plenum has concluded that the Islamic Republic's regime is not able or strong enough to respond to the fundamental demands of the people of Kordestan and other nationalities in Iran. The only path to Iran's salvation from misfortune and hardship is ceaseless struggle to topple the regime and bring a popular and democratic regime to power.

To do this the plenum said the politburo should seek greater closeness and cooperation with the revolutionary opposition of Iran, especially with the forces that are closer to the DPK's views on the two main issues of democracy and national rights.

2. The plenum considers the adventurist policies of the clerical regime in the Persian Gulf region, the Middle East, and Africa and the regime's efforts to access nuclear arms and weapons of mass destruction as a danger to the people of Iran and regional and world peace and security. The DPK and patriotic Iranian forces must expose the clerical regime's policy internationally as far as possible and prevent the implementation of this unpopular policy.

3. The Central Committee plenum expresses its pleasure at recent remarks by Reynaldo Galindo Pohl, the special UN Human Rights Committee emissary on Iran, and believes that although this report reveals only a fraction of the injustice and violations of law by the officials of the current Iranian regime, this is an appropriate step toward introducing the regime's true nature to the world, humanitarian circles, and associations.

The plenum considers all DPK combatants obliged to collect greater information on the trampling of human rights in Kordestan and Iran to help to expose the Islamic Republic regime's nature.

4. The plenum has conveyed to the politburo that a new diplomatic move should be initiated to introduce the Kordish issue to the outside world so that it can elicit the support of the international community for our people's rightful struggle.

The plenum considers cooperation and the exchange of views with political forces inside the Kordish movement to be necessary and profitable.

5. On the martyrdom of Dr. Sadeq Sharafkandi and his comrades, the plenum agrees that the Islamic Republic regime is a terrorist-nurturing, antipopular regime that constantly seeks to eliminate its opponents anywhere. Most of the responsibility for this heart-rending incident lies with the DPK leadership, which has not taken the necessary steps to combat the enemy's plots.

Every DPK organ and freedom fighter must pay greater attention to protecting the lives of DPK officials and in general to neutralizing the plans and plots of the anti-human clerical regime. Necessary recommendations and guidelines were given to plenary session participants so that they could act on them and also convey them to the various DPK organs.

The third day of deliberations saw the report of the political-military committee on the past year's organizational and military activities of cadres and peshmergas and of party members and supporters being presented.

All plenum participants stated their opinions and beliefs with revolutionary frankness and highlighted the weak points of the past year's activities and performance and suggested ways and means to rectify the discrepancies.

Concluding these discussions, the plenum unanimously commended the work and activities of party comrades in every political, organizational, propaganda, and military aspect and prayed for greater activity and increasing victory than in years past.

Elsewhere in the plenum's deliberations, the manifesto of the Central Committee and the amended proposal for the classified charter of cadres was also discussed.

Formulating the Central Committee manifesto is one of the decisions approved at the ninth congress and earlier sessions, but unfortunately not ratified until now. Last spring the politburo prepared the draft and presented it to the fourth plenum for ratification. Plenum participants approved the manifesto after intense and substantive debates. The Central Committee manifesto embodies the modus operandi of the DPK's organs and the procedure for internal liaison.

The final discussion concerned training. Standing and alternate members and Central Committee advisers unanimously stressed the need for instruction in every DPK organ, including the Central Committee. After making their proposals they called on the Central Committee to compile the program necessary to present the issue and submit it to party organs.

The Central Committee plenum's program incorporated various other issues, such as the methodology and implementation of party activities not mentioned in the statement. Clearly, plenum participants will convey the same to their comrades on their return to their work and activities.

After five days of useful and substantive deliberations, with faith in the rightfulness of the Kordish people's demands and with firm determination and faith in the continuation of the struggle to achieve these hopes, participants returned to their workplaces.

With hopes of victory and the continuation of the proud path blazed by the martyrs.

[Signed] The politburo of the DPK of Iran, 10 December 1992

Media Question Objectives of Somalia Operation

Possible U.S. Aims Viewed

NC1412165592 Tehran JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI in Persian 7 Dec 92 p 15

[Unattributed commentary: "What is The United States' Role in Somalia?"]

[Excerpts] Last Thursday the UN Security Council issued a resolution permitting military operations in Somalia under the United States' command to protect and guarantee assistance to Somalia to rescue the victims of hunger and poverty.

In this resolution the Security Council asked all the countries that proposed sending troops to Somalia to assure the security of the aid to send in the necessary forces and equipment for dispatch to Somalia. [passage omitted]

The question that arises is: To what extent does the multinational forces' intervention under U.S. command aim to ensure the security of UN aid caravans to a famine-stricken, impoverished country?

The suspicion generated among the international public on this intervention, especially the penurious African nations, is something we cannot ignore.

The Third World's current mistrust of U.S. policies in Somalia centers on whether the United States will capitalize on the crisis in Somalia—which is entirely a domestic problem—and lay the foundation stone of intervention under the UN banner.

Some political observers of African affairs believe that by commanding the military operations in Somalia and efforts to ensure the security of aid caravans to the hungry, the United States seeks to divert attention from the crisis in Bosnia-Hercegovina and to mitigate domestic and foreign pressure on the United States on this.

Other observers believe the U.S. objective in formulating a plan for military intervention in Somalia was to strengthen its military presence in Bab el-Mandeb. So the Americans have set up their largest military base in North Africa near the Red Sea.

The Berbera military base, where the U.S. and other multinational intervention forces under U.S. command are concentrated, was placed at the Americans' disposal by the Siad Barre regime in 1980. [passage omitted]

Some political observers believe the U.S. objective in staging the upcoming military operation of intervening in Somalia is to strengthen these bases in the sensitive areas of the Horn of Africa and has no humanitarian aspect. The Americans have proved that on foreign policy they do not consider restoring the wrested rights of the Third World nations and have no sympathy for them. The U.S. stance on the Bosnia-Hercegovina crisis proves this statement. The Americans officially announced that because Bosnia-Hercegovina is of no use to the United States, they will not endanger the lives of U.S. soldiers for it.

In light of the above, people and political observers worldwide think the Americans are pursuing important objectives in their "Somali operations." The significance of the benefit for the Pentagon far exceeds the importance of the interests of the hungry Somali people.

Expressing any opinion on these operations would be rather hasty and the real reasons for U.S. pressure on the Security Council to pass a resolution for military intervention in Somalia will only appear in time.

U.S. Economic Problems Blamed

NC1312212392 Tehran ABRAR in Persian 6 Dec 92 p 12

[Seyyed Ahmad Hoseyni commentary: "Somalia—A New Step Toward U.S. Domination"]

[Excerpts] At an official session, the UN Security Council approved the U.S. proposed plan for military intervention in Somalia to facilitate continued relief operations there. [passage omitted]

In the last year since the toppling of Somali President Siad Barre, more than 300,000 persons have died as a result of famine, hunger, and internecine strife. Unidentified armed groups have endangered the relief operations and aggravated the crisis in Somalia, which has assumed crucial proportions and threatens the lives of thousands of people. In light of this situation, dispatching military forces to continue assistance to famine-stricken people has assumed a humanitarian and legal shape.

The military intervention in Somalia is the second step, following the attack on Iraq by multinational forces, toward establishing worldwide domination. In both instances, it has been given a legal and justified form.

In view of the propaganda that is to take place regarding this plan and the reasons for military intervention and domination presented under a humanitarian veneer, with an international organization providing the necessary instruments behind the mask of international peace for such domination, the military intervention in Somalia can be appraised in the following manner:

1. UN Secretary General Butrus-Ghali has presented a comprehensive compendium on the corpus of peace laws and the protocol of peace to the Security Council. This report is based on the four principles of "deterrent diplomacy," "establishing peace," "protecting peace,"

and "consolidating measures." In the section on "establishing peace" the secretary general has called for the establishment of an international authoritative body and a military force for times of need, under UN control, which should be financed by the defense budgets of UN member countries.

Is Somalia being used as a guinea pig for the UN experiment in setting up this new structure for domination?

Is the Security Council experimenting with this proposal by the secretary general on the pretext of continuing humanitarian assistance and relief to famine victims in Somalia?

In conditions when the government of that country has not requested the dispatch of military forces or intervention in its internal affairs, when the matter is beyond the pale of the Security Council to decide and is in contravention of the principle of national sovereignty or national geography, what legal authority will define subsequent military intervention?

2. The UN secretary general has envisaged the command of peacekeeping forces under UN auspices, but the forces in Somalia are to be under U.S. command.

Is the U.S. proposal in sending military forces to Somalia under the UN banner but under U.S. command evidence of U.S. insistence on capitalizing on the politico-military elements in new economic relations?

It thus appears that the United States is in favor of using its politico-military capability as far as possible as a decisive factor in the turbulent aftermath of the cold war era to forge the structure of the new world order, before the concept loses its novelty and fades away. [passage omitted]

Before anything else, the United States needs an economic victory and not military prowess. Therefore, the U.S. forces form a large part of the UN forces and the expenses are paid by other countries, which should solve the economic problems of the U.S. forces and its defense industries. Thus, its militaristic element will be diminished and its concentrated energy will be directed elsewhere.

EC Said Unfamiliar With Islamic Realities

LD1412191792 Tehran IRNA in English 1540 GMT 14 Dec 92

[Text] Tehran, Dec. 14, IRNA—Heads of 12 European countries, at the end of a two-day European community summit on Sunday [13 December], issued a declaration expressing concern over Iran's record on human rights and formulating the framework of their future relations with the Islamic republic.

The declaration has reiterated "the significance of Iran in the region" and the need to maintain dialogue with Tehran.

The significance and the determining status of Iran in regional and international equations is an undeniable fact accepted by the 12 EC countries. Their emphasis on the need to maintain dialogue with Tehran could be assessed within the framework of the fact that the stability and consolidation of the Islamic system is an accepted and indisputable principle.

In spite of these facts, the EC heads in their declaration have repeated their past unprincipled stands. They have conditioned establishment of closer and stronger ties with Iran to nullifying the death sentence on the Apostate British author Salman Rushdie.

The 12 European heads, by raising the issue in the declaration, in fact, proved their unfamiliarity and their distance from the existing realities. Four years after the late leader Imam Khomeyni issued his historical fatwa on Rushdie, the European governments still think that through restricting their ties with Iran and imposing economic, political and psychological pressures, can force Iran to rescind the verdict. It seems all the more that the continued illogical and unprincipled policy of the West emanates from Europe's lack of knowledge on Islam and its rules.

Meanwhile, some analysts believe that the West, by adding fuel to the Rushdie issue and resorting to exertion of various kinds of pressures on the Islamic Republic of Iran, in fact, makes efforts to weaken the solid belief of the Iranian Muslim nation and dissuade them from continuing their path.

The 12 EC countries in their declaration have also said that they were concerned of the threat that Iran's arms procurement may pose on regional stability.

During the 1980-88 Iraqi-imposed war on Iran, the European governments continued to extended political and military support to the Saddam Hussayn's regime. During the war, they, particularly Britain, France and Germany, never adopted a neutral stand in practice. More so, the military equipment made in these countries, used by Iraq in its war against Iran, proved the hostility of the West against the Islamic revolution.

The right of every country in [words redacted] arms is an internationally accepted principle and the concern of the 12 European heads over Iran's arms purchases is in fact in line with their past hostile attitude towards the Islamic republic.

It must be recalled that the Islamic Iran attaches more importance to the regional security than Europe does because Iran's interests would be secured only if the regional stability is preserved. Claims that Iran's efforts to procure defensive arms will endanger the regional stability are far from reality and undoubtedly what destabilizes the security and peace in the region is the presence of the Western forces in the Persian Gulf and the regional countries.

The EC declaration has further voiced concern over the human rights situation in Iran.

The European heads, by pointing to the human rights issue in Iran, have tried to impose their own views of human rights on the Iranian Muslim nation.

In conditions that many foreign analysts confirm that women in the Iranian society enjoy freedom and have active presence in all political, economic, social and cultural aspects of life and accept the freedom of expression and press in Iran, the European heads disregarding the cultural, social and religious beliefs of the Iranian Muslim people, express concern over observation of human rights in Iran.

Meanwhile, the European Community has submitted a report to the Third Committee of the United Nations expressing concern over disregarding the rights of the followers of the misleading Baha'i Sect in Iran.

Moreover, the declaration has criticized Iran's decisive confrontation with international drug smugglers.

The Edinburgh declaration on Iran stems, more than anything else, from cultural and ideological differences between Europe and the Iranian Muslim nation. The 12 EC countries in order to build a better foundation for cooperation with the Islamic republic should take steps towards correct understanding of the existing realities and beliefs of the Iranian Muslim nation.